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# THE INDEPENDENT

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THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 1998

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REVIEW FRONT



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## Clinton faces trial by video

THE US CONGRESS seems almost certain to release a videotape tomorrow of Bill Clinton giving evidence to a grand jury, deepening and prolonging the President's agony.

Mr Clinton's future is still on a knife edge, with no agreement in Congress about how to punish him, growing anger among Congressional Democrats and a toughening stance among Republicans. Although opinion polls show that Mr Clinton's approval ratings have actually improved during the six months of independent counsel Kenneth Starr's investigation of his alleged perjury and obstruction of justice, public support is clearly fragile.

Polls show the President's approval ratings up since January, but more people are finding his moral behaviour distasteful. The polls disagree over whether there is a majority in favour of impeachment hearings, and public sentiment could change very quickly if a video indicates he has been deceiving the American people.

The President testified to the grand jury using a video link last month, after refusing to appear in person, and it is this which the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives will today discuss releasing.

John Conyers, the panel's top Democrat, said it would "jeopardise the process and demean our activity", but Republicans insist disclosure is necessary, to show that the President deliberately misled the inquiry. The video shows the President by turns evasive, angry and defensive, according to those who have seen it. It would once again underline that though he may have a legal defence against the charge of perjury, in practice he has lied to the grand jury and to the American people.

Republicans reportedly burst into applause at a party meeting yesterday when the Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, said all material should be released. They also said that a decision on holding

BY ANDREW MARSHALL  
in Washington

impeachment hearings is unlikely until next month, with the hearings themselves starting after the November elections.

Charles Rangel, a New York Democrat who has been a fierce defender of the President, said: "The Republicans don't want anything to put this behind us. They would like for this thing just to sit and stew, reaching no conclusions until after November." But not all of his colleagues are so supportive: the President's own party is turning on him.

White House aides emerged shaken from meetings with senior Democratic Congressmen on Tuesday. Erskine Bowles, the President's Chief of Staff, tried to reassure them that Mr Clinton was not relying on a narrowly legalistic defence, but this cut little ice. Joe Biden, a senator and former presidential candidate, was reported to have said that "some Democrats believed that the party would be better off in the fall elections if Mr Clinton resigned".

When another senior Democrat, Senator Bob Kerrey of Nebraska, was asked if the White House needed to worry about party members calling for the President's resignation, he said simply: "They should worry."

At the same time, Republican sentiment is hardening against any lesser punishment than impeachment. Democrats have proposed the idea of a Congressional censure - or censure plus a fine - but there is little room for manoeuvre, and impeachment hearings seem much the most likely option.

The President's troubles may have an unexpected side-effect, however, removing the most likely Republican presidential candidate from the field for the 2000 elections. George W Bush, Governor of Texas and son of the former president, said recent events had made him think very carefully. "Is this something I want to put my family through?" he asked.



Sally Freeman, of England, practises for the platform diving at the Commonwealth Games tomorrow David Gray

## Cook in Kosovo climbdown

BRITAIN WAS forced into a humiliating climbdown over Kosovo yesterday after a barrage of international condemnation at its failure to implement new European Union sanctions on Serbia.

The Foreign Secretary ordered the retreat after protests by Britain's EU partners against a Foreign Office memorandum, leaked in *The Independent* yesterday, that questioned the legality of the sanctions against Serbia for its repressive policy in Kosovo.

BY KATHERINE BUTLER  
in Brussels

The about-turn was seen as a further blow to Robin Cook's reputation at the Foreign Office. His handling of the EU ban on direct flights from Serbia was attacked as "a shambles" by the Tories and as "cock-handed" by the Liberal Democrats.

It came as the European Commission in Brussels was considering legal action against Britain for undermining the effectiveness of the flight ban.

Foreign Office officials insisted the climbdown was triggered by the worsening crisis in Serb-ruled Kosovo, not by the clamour from Brussels.

The Government endorsed the flight ban at talks 10 days ago, but insisted it could not implement it for 12 months because of a 1959 agreement with Belgrade requiring either side to serve 12 months' notice before suspending landing rights.

After rising criticism at Brussels, the Foreign Office declared yesterday that the

humanitarian situation in Kosovo was now so bad it outweighed legal requirements to honour the air services agreement. Mr Cook said Britain would now ban all flights from Yugoslavia, comprising Serbia and Montenegro, with immediate effect.

The climbdown came as more details emerged of how Serbian forces have been killing Kosovo's ethnic Albanian civilians and adopting a scorched-earth policy in the province. Cook's follies, page 2.

## Anger at police over race killing

A BLACK musician who was found badly burnt in a London street, was unlawfully killed, an inquest jury decided yesterday. Michael Menson, 30, was found wandering almost naked and still alight on the North Circular Road in the early hours of 28 January last year.

The inquest verdict, which coincides with the reopening of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, is likely to compound concerns over the way police respond to the suspicious deaths of black people.

Officers initially believed that Mr Menson had set himself alight, and, as a result, the scene of the crime was not sealed off for scientific evidence to be collected until 12 hours later.

His family later complained that officers failed to act on information provided by Mr Menson before he died, that he had been followed by four white men who were on a bus with him.

Scotland Yard said yesterday that four junior officers had had "words of advice and constructive discussions with senior officers" as a result of the case. Three middle-ranking officers retired before a disciplinary investigation of their handling of the inquiry could be concluded.

At yesterday's inquest at Hornsey Coroner's Court, the coroner, Dr William Dolman, said the police should not be blamed for failing to find the killers. "From what we have heard, it is clear that theirs has been a difficult task against appalling odds, hampered by the absence of any witnesses," he said. "It is no blame on the po-

BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

lice that there have been no answers so far."

The coroner expressed his sympathies to the Menson family. "What happened that night was an appalling and horrible event. It is no surprise to me that you have been angry and deeply troubled and distressed by the circumstances of his death."

The jury returned a majority verdict of nine to one that Mr Menson, who had five hit singles with the group Double Trouble, was unlawfully killed.

In a statement issued after the verdict, Deputy Assistant



Menson: Severely burnt

Commissioner John Townsend said police were continuing their "thorough investigation to try and discover the circumstances surrounding [Mr Menson's] unlawful killing".

Mr Townsend wrote in a letter to solicitors acting for Mr Menson's family on 25 August: "I accept that police action at the scene and for the first 12 hours was not as thorough as I would have wished."

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Abbey National Life	£272.64	£5452.80	£1408.80	
Nationwide Life	£294.00	£5880.00	£1836.00	

Source: Life and Pensions Moneyfacts - July 1998



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## Alternative medicine a health risk, say experts

ONE OF the world's most influential medical journals launches a blistering attack today on alternative medicine, warning that its remedies are untested, unregulated and can pose serious risks to patients.

A series of reports published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* describe how a nine-year-old girl with a brain tumour died after her parents insisted she was treated with shark car-

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

tilage instead of chemotherapy. A boy, aged 15, with another cancer, Hodgkin's disease, insisted on treatment with a herbal remedy and accepted conventional drugs only when his condition suddenly worsened.

In some cases the alternative medicines were themselves dangerous. Investigation on a 43-

year-old man taken to hospital with "agonising" stomach pains found high levels of lead poisoning caused by an Indian herbal remedy he had been given for diabetes. A separate analysis of 260 Asian medicines found one-third contained undeclared pharmaceuticals or heavy metals.

The editors of the journal, Marcia Angell and Jerome Kassirer, say the uncritical acceptance of alternative medicine by

medical schools, hospitals and the public must be challenged. "There cannot be two kinds of medicine - conventional and alternative. There is only medicine that has been adequately tested and medicine that has not."

In a stinging attack on the herbal medicine and health food industry they say companies have elevated their labelling to an "art form of double speak", to get round legal restrictions

that prevent them making medical claims for their products, a law that also applies in Britain.

Although most herbal remedies are probably harmless, their use could lead to delays in getting effective treatment for serious illness as well as sometimes being dangerous in their own right. The danger signs may not be recognised because people assume that what is natural must be safe.



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Stephen Lawrence's family said in their final submission to the inquiry that senior detectives lied to ensure the black teenager's racist killers escaped justice. Page 5

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Alan Shearer has reaffirmed his future to Newcastle after talks with manager Ruud Gullit. Page 28

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Recycled paper made up 46.03% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997

## Serbia retreat is the latest in Cook's tour de farces

BY STEPHEN CASTLE  
in Brussels

WHEN IT came, the climbdown was of breathtaking proportions. For days, beleaguered British officials had defended the UK's failure to implement a flight ban on Serbia because of legal niceties.

As Britain's isolation grew - Serb-friendly Greece was our only ally - the rhetoric hardened; how, ran the argument, could we expect countries to obey international law if we were breaking agreements?

All that began to change on Monday morning when Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary and architect of the "ethical dimension" to foreign policy, returned from his autumn break in France. Within hours Mr Cook and Tony Blair had spoken and concluded that Britain's stance was becoming unsustainable. Later, when the Prime Minister spoke to one of Britain's chief critics, Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, the die was cast.

That the Government should have changed tack is not surprising. As one ally said: "Robin certainly did not want to go to the Labour Party conference with this building up, and with Britain being practically the only state with direct, daily air links to the 'Great Satan' (Slobodan) Milosevic."

What has caused bafflement in European capitals is that the Foreign Office and Foreign Secretary could have been on such different courses.

It also shows the Foreign Office's lack of sensitivity with the situation on the ground in Kosovo where details are emerging of how troops under the com-

mand of Mr Milosevic have shot many ethnic Albanian civilians, and through a scorched-earth policy are forcing to let many more - hundreds of thousands - starve to death over the coming winter.

Pressure for Nato intervention is building among the western allies and signs that the rhetoric about sanctions is having no effect.

The upshot of Britain's muddled foreign policy is that once again questions are being asked about Mr Cook's stewardship of his department, about his ability to reflect and act on his priorities. After a year dominated by bad news, over his remarriage, the Queen's state visit to India and the Sandline "arms-to-Africa" affair, another row was just what Mr Cook could have done without.

Part of this was bad luck. The

Foreign Secretary had worked through much of August and was on annual leave when the row over Serbian reprisals reached a climax. But even that shows a lack of a sure touch, because Mr Cook failed to attend one meeting at which the ban was discussed, the informal meeting of foreign ministers in Salzburg on 5 and 6 September. His decision to send Joyce Quin, the new European minister, was much criticised by other foreign ministers who saw it as evidence of arrogance, but Mr Cook himself was probably the main loser. Had he been in Salzburg and detected the determination of other nations to press ahead with the flight ban, despite their legal problems, Britain would probably not have found itself in such a corner.

In the event the informal

meeting was a lost opportunity. One insider said: "Nobody has a bad word against Joyce but nobody sees her as a latter-day Castlereagh either. At those meetings you are surrounded by officials and junior ministers at the FCO tend not to open their mouths." But familiar Foreign Office problems were about to re-emerge. From the start, Mr Cook's dismissal of the diary secretary, and his announcement of a new ethical dimension to foreign policy, the Foreign Secretary's relationship with his department has been uneasy. His attempts to reform the Foreign Office, to widen its recruitment and to create new sources of foreign policy advice, have caused resentment. He was politically damaged by his marriage break-up. Mr Cook's allies

began to suspect a low-level campaign of sapping by his own officials. Nor did the Sandline row, with the implication that some ministers had been poorly served by officials, improve internal cohesion. Here, if nothing else, was evidence of a divergence of thinking between minister and departments.

As with the Sandline case, the machinery at the Foreign Office was moving in a different direction. Because of a 1959 bilateral agreement with Yugoslavia on air services, Foreign Office lawyers argued that the ban - which had been agreed under the British presidency - could not be implemented until one year's notice had been given. At one level this reflects Britain's traditional diplomatic posture. As one official put it: "Britain has always been a stickler for the rules and

this is a strength, not a weakness because it helps us to ensure that others stick to the rules too." But a legalistic line on sanctions against President Milosevic ignored the words and sentiments of Mr Cook on the subject. It failed to appreciate the comfort that such public disarray in the EU would give to the Serbs.

As such it reflects the continuing differences between the Foreign Secretary and the government department he wishes to modernise. As one ally of Mr Cook put it: "The Foreign Office is an institution which is used to imposing its pattern of thinking on ministers. Now it's confronted by ministers with ideas of their own. You can see the tensions which have not been fully worked out." None of which bodes well for Mr Cook.

Robin Cook in his office at the Foreign Office (Photograph: Dale Cherry), and (above left) in India last October during the Queen's tour

## BRITAIN TODAY



## FORECAST

General outlook: Plenty of sunshine in Scotland with only a few showers in eastern and northern parts. A mainly sunny morning in Northern Ireland but cloud will increase and rain will break out during the afternoon. Eastern England may have a few showers but elsewhere in England and Wales will be mainly dry with sunny spells.

SE England, London, Midlands: Dry with long sunny spells. A light north-west wind. Max temp 17-19C (63-66F).

E Anglia, E England: Sunny spells and the risk of a few showers, especially towards coasts. A light to moderate north-west wind. Max temp 14-17C (57-63F).

Cent S & SW England, Channel Is: Dry with plenty of sunshine. A light north-west wind. Max temp 17-19C (63-66F).

Wales, NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: A slight risk of a shower but mainly dry with sunny spells. A light north-west wind. Max temp 14-16C (57-61F).

N & NE England: Sunny spells and the odd shower, especially towards the coast. A light north-west wind. Max temp 14-17C (57-63F).

N Ireland: Sunshine fading with thickening afternoon cloud bringing rain. A light to moderate south-easterly wind. Max temp 15-16C (59-61F).

SW, SE & NW Scotland, Glasgow, Edinburgh, W Isles: Dry with sunny spells. A light north-easterly later southerly wind. Max temp 14-16C (57-61F).

NE Scotland, Aberdeen: Sunny spells and a few showers, mainly light. A light to moderate north-west wind. Max temp 11-14C (52-57F).

N Isles: Sunny spells and showers. A moderate north-west wind. Max temp 11-12C (52-54F).

## OUTLOOK

Rain for Scotland, Wales and England on Friday but it will be patchy and light in southern parts, clearing by the afternoon in the north. Northern Ireland will be dry with sunny spells. Rain in Scotland on Saturday but sunny spells elsewhere.

## TRAVEL

Roads: West Midlands: M5 between J5 (Bham west) and J2 (Dudley). Resurfacing work with narrow lanes both ways. Until 12th October.

West Yorkshire: M1 between J43 Stourton and J42 (Lofthouse Interchange) (M62). Roadworks with 50mph speed limit. Until 1st November.

Buckinghamshire: M40 between junctions 1a (M40) & 3 Wycombe East. Three narrow lanes both ways and a 30 mph speed limit in force. Until 1st January 1999.

Berkshire: M4 between J10 Maidenhead and J7 Slough. New road layout with a 50mph speed limit in a new half-mile car-pooling during flood relief work. Until 31st November.

Britain: M5 J18-19. Major Roadworks on A6300 Bridge. Until 1st January 2001. Subtle A14. Various restrictions in place. Until 31st December 1999.

AA Roadwatchers: Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

## LIGHTING UP

Location	7.36pm to 7.01am	6.48am to 6.48am
Belfast	7.10pm to 6.48am	6.48am to 6.48am
Birmingham	7.21pm to 6.54am	6.54am to 6.54am
Bristol	7.30pm to 6.54am	6.54am to 6.54am
London	7.11pm to 6.40am	6.40am to 6.40am
Manchester	7.21pm to 6.47am	6.47am to 6.47am
Newcastle	7.19pm to 6.44am	6.44am to 6.44am

## HIGH TIDES

Location	AM	HT	PM	HT
Avalonmouth	5.31	11.1	6.00	11.7
Cork	3.55	4.0	4.26	4.1
Dunport	4.16	4.7	4.41	5.0
Dover	6.42	5.9	10.14	5.0
Don Laiglaire	10.23	3.8	10.42	4.1
Falmouth	3.47	4.5	4.12	4.8
Greenock	1.25	3.1	11.26	3.2
Harwich	10.16	3.6	10.51	3.8
Holyhead	9.15	4.9	9.32	5.2
Hull (Albert Dock)	4.45	7.7	5.23	7.8
King's Lynn	4.49	5.7	5.34	5.8
Lisnas	9.55	1.3	10.0	5.0
Liverpool	9.55	5.8	10.18	5.7
Millford Haven	6.42	5.9	10.14	5.0
Newquay	3.42	5.9	4.06	6.2
Portsmouth	5.16	1.5	5.28	1.7
Portsmouth	10.10	4.3	10.23	4.3
Purcell	6.48	3.9	7.11	4.2
Scarborough	2.32	5.1	3.05	5.2
Wick	10.06	3.1	10.19	3.3

## AIR QUALITY

Location	No <sub>2</sub>	O <sub>3</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>
London	Mod	Gd	Gd
S England	Mod	Gd	Gd
Wales	Gd	Gd	Gd
C England	Gd	Gd	Gd
N England	Gd	Gd	Gd
Scotland	Gd	Gd	Gd
N Ireland	Gd	Gd	Gd

## SUN &amp; MOON

Sun rises	06.38
Sun sets	19.11
Moon rises	02.57
Moon sets	17.57
Full Moon	Sept 28th

## WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts call 0991 9000 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).



## YESTERDAY

Location	Temp	Wind	Humidity
Aberdeen	7.3	0	13
Anglesey	0.9	0.6	16
Avalonmouth	5.9	0.02	13
Belfast	1.3	0.06	13
Birmingham	12.0	0.02	18
Bristol	3.8	0.12	20
Cardiff	0.5	0.02	13
Carmarthen	0.5	0.02	13
Cork	2.7	0.01	13
Cromer	3.0	0.01	13
Dunport	0.8	0.01	13
Falmouth	2.8	0.10	17
Glasgow	1.6	0.04	18
Greenwich	2.0	0.09	18
Hove	0.4	0.09	18
Isle of Man	0.3	0.01	13
Isle of Wight	0.3	0.17	19
Jarvis	2.1	0.23	19
Kew	1.5	0.01	13
Lewes	2.5	0.05	11
Liverpool	1.2	0.06	18
London	2.9	0.01	13
Manchester	0.3	0.01	13
Margate	1.4	0.04	17
Murkeston	1.1	0.03	13
Newcastle	1.5	0.01	13
Newquay	1.8	0.01	13
Northwich	1.6	0.03	18
Northwich	3.7	0.01	20
Salisbury	4.6	0.06	19
Scarborough	0.4	0.02	13
Shrewsbury	0.8	0.05	17
Southampton	1.0	0.02	18
Southport	0.6	0.02	13
Stamford	3.2	0.08	12
Swansea	4.6	0.20	19
Tisbury	5.0	0.21	19
Tisbury	4.2	0.01	21
Weymouth	2.6	0.11	19

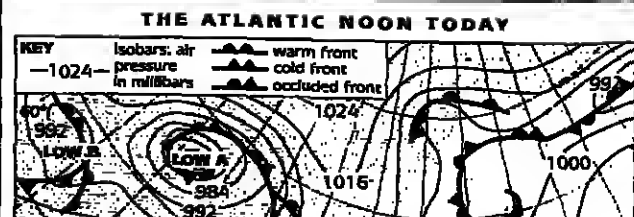
## EXTREMES

Location	Temp	Wind	Humidity
Aberdeen	7.3	0	13
Anglesey	0.9	0.6	16
Avalonmouth	5.9	0.02	13
Belfast	1.3	0.06	13
Birmingham	12.0	0.02	18
Bristol	3.8	0.12	20
Cardiff	0.5	0.02	13
Carmarthen	0.5	0.02	13
Cork	2.7	0.01	13
Cromer	3.0	0.01	13
Dunport	0.8	0.01	13
Falmouth	2.8	0.10	17
Glasgow	1.6	0.04	18
Greenwich	2.0	0.09	18
Hove	0.4	0.09	18
Isle of Man	0.3	0.01	13
Isle of Wight	0.3	0.17	19
Jarvis	2.1	0.23	19
Kew	1.5	0.01	13
Lewes	2.5	0.05	11
Liverpool	1.2	0.06	18
London	2.9	0.01	13
Manchester	0.3	0.01	13
Margate	1.4	0.04	17
Murkeston	1.1	0.03	13
Newcastle	1.5	0.01	13
Newquay	1.8	0.01	13
Northwich	1.6	0.03	18
Northwich	3.7	0.01	20
Salisbury	4.6	0.06	19
Scarborough	0.4	0.02	13
Shrewsbury	0.8	0.05	17
Southampton	1.0	0.02	18
Southport	0.6	0.02	13
Stamford	3.2	0.08	12
Swansea	4.6	0.20	19
Tisbury	5.0	0.21	19
Tisbury	4.2	0.01	21
Weymouth	2.6	0.11	19

## RAIN OR SHINE

A HERDSMAN and his 25 cows were electrocuted yesterday in Moscow when severe gales blew down an overhead high-voltage cable. The man and cattle died instantly. Gale-force winds whipped across the Russian capital, uprooting trees and tearing off roofs. A woman was badly injured when the wind brought down a street lamp. In June several people were killed by a hurricane that brought down thousands of trees in the area.

## THE WORLD



Location	Temp	Wind	Humidity
Aberdeen	7.3	0	13
Anglesey	0.9	0.6	16
Avalonmouth	5.9	0.02	13
Belfast	1.3	0.06	13
Birmingham	12.0	0.02	18
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Cardiff	0.5	0.02	13
Carmarthen	0.5	0.02	13
Cork	2.7	0.01	13
Cromer	3.0	0.01	13
Dunport	0.8	0.01	13
Falmouth	2.8	0.10	17
Glasgow	1.6	0.04	18
Greenwich	2.0	0.09	18
Hove	0.4	0.09	18
Isle of Man	0.3	0.01	13
Isle of Wight	0.3	0.17	19
Jarvis	2.1	0.23	19
Kew	1.5	0.01	13
Lewes	2.5	0.05	11
Liverpool	1.2	0.06	18
London	2.9	0.01	13
Manchester	0.3	0.01	13
Margate	1.4	0.04	17
Murkeston	1.1	0.03	13
Newcastle	1.5	0.01	13
Newquay	1.8	0.01	13
Northwich	1.6	0.03	18
Northwich	3.7	0.01	20
Salisbury	4.6	0.06	19
Scarborough	0.4	0.02	13
Shrewsbury	0.8	0.05	17
Southampton	1.0	0.02	18
Southport	0.6	0.02	13
Stamford	3.2	0.08	12
Swansea	4.6	0.20	19
Tisbury	5.0	0.21	19
Tisbury	4.2	0.01	21
Weymouth	2.6	0.11	19

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Aberdeen	7.3	0	13
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Birmingham	12.0	0.02	18
Bristol	3.8	0.12	20
Cardiff	0.5	0.02	13
Carmarthen	0.5	0.02	13
Cork	2.7	0.01	13
Cromer	3.0	0.01	13
Dunport	0.8	0.01	13
Falmouth	2.8	0.10	17
Glasgow	1.6	0.04	18
Greenwich	2.0	0.09	18
Hove	0.4	0.09	18
Isle of Man	0.3	0.01	13
Isle of Wight	0.3	0.17	19
Jarvis	2.1	0.23	19
Kew	1.5	0.01	13
Lewes	2.5	0.05	11
Liverpool	1.2	0.06	18
London	2.9	0.01	13
Manchester	0.3	0.01	13
Margate	1.4	0.04	17
Murkeston	1.1	0.03	13
Newcastle	1.5	0.01	13

High A will move slowly east-northeast. High B will decline. Low A will absorb Low B before slowly drifting and drifting north-east.

### THE WORLD YESTERDAY

cloudy, drizzle, rain; fog, haze; hazy; mist; rain; sunny; showers, sleet; storm; squall; thunder; thunderstorm; most recent available figure, noon local time

— 5 —



National Year of Reading: Every baby to get a book as millions are put behind drive to raise levels of literacy

## Britons urged to turn over a new leaf

MINISTERS WANT to turn Britain into a nation of readers - with the help of television. Soap operas such as *East-Enders*, *Coronation Street* and *Brookside* will be used to promote the idea that reading is both essential and fun.

Everyone, from nine-month-old babies to 80-year-old pensioners, will be invited to take part in the National Year of Reading, which David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, launched yesterday.

He said: "This is a campaign for everyone. It aims to encourage parents, grandparents and friends to read and to get children to read and it is also about getting volunteers to be prepared to give a little time as mentors, both in and out of school."

Older people will also be given a chance to brush up their reading. Mr Blunkett said his own interest in reading had begun with the "politically incorrect" *Biggles* stories and Enid Blyton's *Famous Five*.

Then he read Jack London's *White Fang* and *Call of the Wild*. "It was inspirational. I loved the poignancy of it and the way he portrayed the best and most cruel elements of nature," Mr Blunkett announced an extra £24m of money to pay for a £1,000 book token for every school. It follows £23m for books made available in January. Nearly £50m will be spent on a new daily "literacy hour" in primary schools.

A £1.8m television advertising campaign to encourage adults to read to children began last night and will run until the end of October. Last night's advertisement showed fathers reading with their children and was broadcast to coincide with the European Champions League match between Manchester United and Barcelona. The need for a national year

BY JUDITH JUDD  
Education Editor

of reading is obvious, say ministers. In a recent survey Britain came third from the bottom in a literacy table of eight industrialised nations. According to the Office for National Statistics, 8.4 million Britons of working age (22 per cent) are incapable of comparing two pieces of information and one in four adults has very poor literacy standards.

Around 40 per cent of 11-year-olds are not reaching the expected standard in national tests in English. Particular efforts will be made to help boys, who lag behind girls in English throughout their school careers. Fathers will be encouraged to read with their sons and a month will be devoted to reading in sports, with the backing of Linford Christie and Alex Ferguson.

Parents will be able to obtain a free booklet of advice on how they can help their children to read by calling the freephone number 0800 100 60 60. Every baby will get a free book as part of a £5m project funded by Sainsbury's in partnership with the charity Book Trust. The company is giving away 1 million books in a new national Bookstart programme.

In a pilot project begun six years ago with 300 Birmingham families, babies were given free books at their nine-month health check. Both their literacy and numeracy had benefited by the time they started school. Two years after receiving the books they were three times more likely to be interested in reading than those who had not taken part.

Other projects will aim to influence young adults. One will promote cult novels for 16 to 25-year-olds. Estelle Morris, the school standards minister, said

the improvement of literacy could not all be left to schools. "We need a culture change to make sure this country values reading in a way it has not done for many years."

Phil Redmond, executive producer of *Brookside*, said storylines including reading would feature in *Brookside*, *Hollyoaks* and *Grange Hill* during the year. He is keeping details secret but said a new family would be introduced into *Brookside* in November in which one member suffered from a reading disability.

The Conservatives attacked the use of soap operas. Peter Ainsworth, the culture spokesman, said: "This is an Orwellian nightmare which the viewer would find laughable and the licence-payer would reject as propaganda. What will we see next? *Coronation Street* used as a platform to promote the euro? *Brookside* as a vehicle for the New Deal?"

John Dunford, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said the money was welcome and he expected schools would spend most of it on fiction for their libraries, which had been depleted by recent cuts. With discounts, that would mean about 200 new books for each school. "The challenge is to get children reading books in this age of computer games and wall-to-wall television."

Mr Blunkett said he would judge the success of the year by the shift in attitudes to reading. That might be measured by the number of books borrowed from libraries or sold in shops. Book sales had already risen since the Government began to highlight literacy problems, he added.

Leading article, Review, page 3  
Parents must teach reading, Review, page 4



Fathers are to be encouraged to read with their sons, and a month will be devoted to reading in sports, with the help of stars Peter Byrne

## The boy who preferred Shakespeare

BY DARIUS SANAI

ENCOURAGING schoolboys to enjoy their literary heritage has always been a vexing task. First, they used to prefer playing football. Then they started watching football. And now, they prefer reading football.

According to a straw poll of GCSE pupils at William Ellis, a north London boys' comprehensive, Thomas Hardy and George Eliot have no chance next to the England footballers Tony Adams and Ian Wright, both recent co-authors of their autobiographies.

Needless to say, Wrighty does not feature on GCSE reading lists, and many parents will prefer their children to be reading *Turgenev* and *Dickens* to *Hodder* and *Adams*.

feature on the reading list: "They are complicated, they are hard to understand and you can't see any connection to real life." But he is no philistine: asked what text he would choose given the freedom of a bookshop, he picked *Julius Caesar*: "Shakespeare is about jealousy and love and hate and violence, and people do exactly the same kind of thing today."

The "irrelevance" of some of the GCSE texts is not a generation gap thing, then, so much as a considered opinion. "Studying some of these books would put some people off the

idea of books full stop," said Steven. "I'm sure there are people who think 'Well, these are all boring so books are boring'."

The others agreed: the age of the GCSE texts was not a problem in itself, and they knew they were studying the literature as part of a learning process, not for enjoyment. "But I thought some of the short stories were meaningless," said Keir Kennedy - not like Shakespeare, where everything's very realistic even if the language is difficult."

The school lists have not changed much over the decades: in 1976, Shakespeare, Chaucer and Hardy featured, much as they do now. Susan Hill and Stan Barstow are among the modern texts in today's exams.

But perhaps they aren't modern enough. Salim Ameyor is a voracious reader of biographies of black political figures. Gustav Wood reads for more than an hour a night, but mainly chooses science fiction. And Keir, also 15 and an Arsenal fan, is reading Tony Adams's book, as are several of his classmates.

### WHAT EVERY TEENAGER SHOULD BE READING



MICHELE ROBERTS, NOVELIST AND POET:

- (1) *The Penguin Book of Women Poets*
- (2) *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
- (3) *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë
- (4) *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys
- (5) *Collected Works* by Collette
- (6) *Poems* by John Donne
- (7) *Poems* by George Herbert
- (8) *Capital* by Karl Marx
- (9) *The Interpretation of Dreams* by Sigmund Freud
- (10) *Lucky Jim* by Kingsley Amis



ANDREW ROSENHEIM, MD, PENGUIN PRESS:

- (1) *A River Runs Through It* by Norman Maclean
- (2) *The Way of All Flesh* by Samuel Butler
- (3) *Money* by Martin Amis
- (4) *Going after Caccato* by Tim O'Brien
- (5) *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens
- (6) *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- (7) *The Sporting Club* by Thomas McGuane
- (8) *Herzog* by Saul Bellow
- (9) *King Lear* by William Shakespeare
- (10) *The Power Broker* by Robert Caro



LISA JARDINE, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH:

- (1) *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller
- (2) *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* by Milan Kundera
- (3) *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- (4) *If This Is a Man* by Primo Levi
- (5) *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville
- (6) *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
- (7) *The Man without Qualities* by Robert Musil
- (8) *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie
- (9) *Oranges are not the Only Fruit* by Jeanette Winterson
- (10) *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf



GEORGE WALDEN, WRITER:

- (1) *Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels
- (2) *Henry IV, parts 1 and 2* by William Shakespeare
- (3) *The Essays* by Michel de Montaigne
- (4) *The Defence of Poesie* by Sir Philip Sidney
- (5) *Civilisation of Renaissance in Italy* by Jakob Burckhardt
- (6) *An Enquiry of Human Understanding* by David Hume
- (7) *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov
- (8) *The Underground Man* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky
- (9) *Tristram Shandy* by Laurence Sterne
- (10) *The Bible*

## Book you can read in the dark

BY CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Editor

FRAN MATTHEWS, a 24-year-old PR executive in London, likes novels. She is reading Colin Bateman's *Divorcing Jack* before that she lapped up *The Angels of Russia* by Patricia Leroy. The difference was that she could read Leroy's book in the dark.

Ms Matthews is one of the first wave of Britons catching on to "electronic books", or "e-books", hand-held computers able to store hundreds of novels at once and designed to be read anywhere. Battery-powered and with a backlit screen, her 3Com PalmPilot is the start of a change that could affect both how we read books, and how they get published.

"I suppose I might have looked weird reading it on the Underground, just sitting there,"



PalmPilot: online books

said Ms Matthews. "It felt weird reading in bed in the dark. But I can see it catching on."

The principal difference she noticed about reading *The Angels of Russia*, which she received as an e-mail sent by the Web publisher Online Originals, was that she was never

sure how close she was to the last page. She still doesn't know if it was a long book.

"You get to the end of chapters, but it's hard to get a concept of where you are in the whole book. Actually, that added to the fun. Sometimes when you're reading a [paper] book you know you're getting to the end. With this it just finished. And I really liked it."

About 1.6 million PalmPilots have been sold, and more "e-books" will hit American shops within weeks, arriving in Britain next year. They are essentially stripped-down computers, idealised for reading text and graphics. Their displays are usually black and white and prices range from \$300 (£185) to \$1,500 (£940), weights start at 200g (0.5kg) and sizes as small as a paperback.

For some paper-oriented publishers the dream of elec-

tronic books may prove a nightmare. Authors can sell directly to readers over the Internet, cutting out the middlemen of publishers, editors, printers, distributors and bookshops.

But one trail-blazer, Online Originals, a "virtual company" that exists only on a laptop computer and a Web site, acts as a publisher for first-time novelists. You can sample a book via its Website ([www.onlineoriginals.com](http://www.onlineoriginals.com)). For £4, you can buy the content of any Words and pictures will be e-mailed as a file to be read on a normal PC or a PalmPilot.

The company's authors then receive half the book's purchase price, a clear advantage over the paper system, where a first-time author might never get any money, despite good sales. Most authors are given an advance only for their subsequent novels.

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# Blair has only sympathy for doomed plant

FUJITSU'S SLOGAN, "Everything is possible", was borrowed yesterday by Tony Blair as he explained to 600 workers from the Japanese-owned semi-conductor factory in his constituency that he was not to blame for them being made redundant.

The Prime Minister managed to utter enough soothing words to win applause, despite those words offering not much more than condolences. His presence buoyed the spirits of those soon to be unemployed. But only until he left, then the bleakness of their prospects weighed down on them again.

The Prime Minister's visit was the fulfilment of a promise made two weeks ago, on the day the Japanese factory added its name to the lengthening list of recent closures in the North-east. Given that the doomed plant fell within Mr Blair's Sedgefield constituency, he could hardly ignore it. So instead, he packaged up the bad news with the good, and embarked on a three-and-a-half hour, carefully choreographed charm offensive that culminated in the unveiling of a

BY CLARE GARNER

plaque at Avco Trust. The financial services company, housed in a new, purpose-built office on Duxford International Business Park, with its 220 new jobs, was "a very great boost to the region indeed", he said.

But official openings and new buildings are no guarantee against disaster, as the workers at Fujitsu have learnt. Their plant was opened by the Queen in 1991 - as was the Siemens microchip plant in nearby north Tyneside, which recently announced its closure with the loss of 1,100 jobs.

"I'm sure Mr Blair isn't going to be able to offer us anything," said one Fujitsu employee, arriving for work at 8am yesterday. "Absolutely nothing," agreed another. "His visit is six months' late. It's not going to help us now."

But, against the odds, Mr Blair managed to give them something. At the end of individual chats and a speech in the canteen, the assembled staff broke into spontaneous applause. He had told them that he cared, he would do every-

thing he could to ameliorate the situation, and, above all, what had happened was not his fault.

Steven Fozzard, representative of Fujitsu's employee committee forum, said the workers were impressed that Mr Blair had taken the trouble to visit. "He was clearly behind schedule but that wasn't going to stop him speaking to people one to one," he said. "The general view is that he has come here to try and give us as much assistance as possible... We're 600 people, but we have partners, and the impact on family life is important. I am sure, as a family man, Mr Blair understands that."

But no matter how much sympathy Mr Blair expressed, the overall feeling after he left was one of anti-climax. "There's no way he was going to turn round and say, 'I've got a job for you,' and we all want to hear those words," said Mr Fozzard. "This is devastation. This plant and companies like it in the North-east were brought here as the salvation for the area. People who came here seven years ago never dreamt this would happen. This was



Tony Blair leaving the Fujitsu factory at Newton Aycliffe after commiserating with workers about the loss of their jobs

John Voos

sunrise industry. This was jobs for life.

Mr Blair spent over an hour inside the Fujitsu building at Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham. He met the task force set up by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Peter Mandelson, talked to staff and, finally, inspected the so-called "opportunity centre" in the foyer, where social security leaflets and pamphlets with titles such

as "Be Better Off Working. Have You Seen What's Out There Now?" vied for prominence.

But the view of most employees is that there is precisely nothing in the North-east now, and they are planning to move away from the region. "I don't fancy my chances of getting a job round here," said Paul Atkinson, a product supervisor. Graham Clark, an apprentice technician who has worked at

the plant for three years, agreed. "The Government is trying to help us get jobs, but the prospects of getting a job in the area are very bleak."

The bad news for the North-east comes almost daily. Staff at the engineering giant Vickers are bracing themselves for an announcement of job cuts and partial closure of one of its two tank factories at Newcastle and Leeds. The Newcastle

plant, which employs 600 people, is thought to be more at risk.

After Fujitsu, Mr Blair sped on to the Avco Trust, via the hugely successful Nissan plant in Sunderland, but was confronted there by a posse of protesters from the US crane-maker Grove Cranes, which has just announced the closure of its North-east operation, with the loss of 670 jobs. Turning disadvantage to advantage, Mr Blair's fast re-

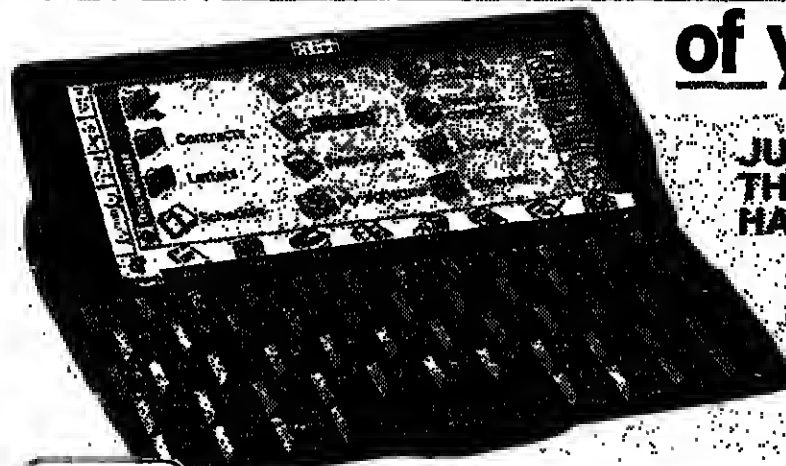
sponse unit forestalled any trouble by inviting the protesters to a private meeting.

"We were quite overwhelmed to be invited in to see the Prime Minister," said Tony Lawrence, 53, who has worked at the crane factory for 29 years. "He listens to our point of view. He said he would do as much as he could... He can't wave a magic wand, as he said, but we're over the moon we've seen him."

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## Treasury orders efficiency drive

THE TREASURY ordered all cabinet ministers to set tough new targets for improving public services yesterday amid fears they will waste the extra £57bn they were allocated this summer.

Tony Blair, who is backing the Treasury's move, believes that much of the extra spending by previous Labour governments disappeared into a "black hole" and did not deliver better services.

Stephen Byers, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, has written to each Whitehall department, asking for urgent proposals on how they will spend the budgets announced in July, which included an extra £20bn for education and £19bn for health over the next three years.

Mr Byers will negotiate new "public service agreements" with cabinet colleagues over the next few weeks. He has decided to publish the new contracts to increase the pressure on ministers to channel the extra cash into the Government's priority areas.

Last night Mr Byers said the performance targets would be "challenging but realistic". But he could meet resistance because some ministers are unhappy the agreements will give

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, unprecedented power to interfere in the running of individual departments.

In his first keynote speech since joining the Cabinet in July, Mr Byers will today spell out the Treasury's hopes of bringing about a cultural revolution in Whitehall spending.

"We must get away from the failed and misguided approach of simply thinking that by throwing money at a problem, we will somehow make it disappear," Mr Byers will tell a London conference organised by the *New Statesman* magazine. "Instead, there needs to be a clear link between additional funding and the delivery of an improved service."

Mr Byers will tell ministers during the negotiations that their top priority should be to improve services constantly each year, rather than to spend more.

The targets, to be published in November, will restate some of the Government's existing pledges, such as cutting the number of schoolchildren playing truant by a third and boosting levels of literacy and numeracy.

But the Treasury blueprint will also add new promises to be met by the year 2002. They will include reducing sharply the number of emergency hospital admissions among the over-75s by providing better care in their own homes. All three-year-olds in Scotland will be guaranteed nursery places, while in Wales ministers will aim to halve the number of under-6s who die from heart disease.

The Treasury will assure ministers their departments will not face cash penalties if they fail to hit the new targets. "They will be judged by the public if they do not deliver," said one source.

However, the Treasury is bound to take account of ministers' performance during future spending rounds and when they bid for budget top-ups from the Government's reserve kitty.

Some ministers fear that Mr Brown will use the more centralised system to enhance his already strong Treasury power-base. "He wants fingers in every departmental pie," one said. "We are all signed up to the Government's priorities but we have got to have some room for manoeuvre in how we spend our budgets."

### IN BRIEF

#### Prison officer may be jailed for harassing au pair

A PRISON officer was yesterday warned he could face a jail sentence after being found guilty of waging a campaign of harassment against a young French woman who was his au pair and lover. Magistrates at Harlow in Essex found Stuart Bingham, 52, who works at Shrewsbury jail, Shropshire, guilty of offences under the 1997 Prevention From Harassment Act, the so-called anti-stalking law. Bingham, a former policeman with 20 years' service as a prison officer, was jailed until 15 October, pending reports. But the chair of the magistrates, Mrs Pippa Ecclestone, warned him: "We consider these offences so serious that custody could be considered."

#### SAS hero priest killed himself

AN SAS hero who became a vicar after leading the daring raid that ended the Iranian embassy siege killed himself after being forced to quit the Army, an inquest heard yesterday. The Rev Frank Collins, 41, was found slumped in the driving seat of a BMW car in a fume-filled garage, the hearing was told. The father-of-four had become "down and depressed" after he was forced to leave his role as Army chaplain when he wrote his autobiography last year.

#### Steroid-supplying GP struck off

AN "irresponsible" GP was struck off the medical register yesterday for illegally selling steroids and supplying large quantities of controlled drugs to addicts. Dr Michael Thear-Graham, 36, from Newport, south Wales, began selling drugs after running up mortgage arrears.

#### UVF man released from Maze

THE FIRST UVF man to be freed early under the terms of the Good Friday peace agreement, Simon Corry from Belfast, who was jailed for the illegal possession of weapons, walked free from the Maze yesterday.

## Spirit zone revived

HELP materialised yesterday for the controversial Spirit Zone in the Millennium Dome.



# Lawrence police errors 'deliberate'

SENIOR DETECTIVES deliberately undermined the Stephen Lawrence murder investigation to ensure the black teenager's racist killers were not brought to justice, the public inquiry was told yesterday.

In a final submission on behalf of the Lawrence family, Michael Mansfield, QC, said the investigation had also been blighted by "insidious racism" within the Metropolitan Police. "Racism lies at the heart of why Stephen was murdered and why his mur-

BY KATHY MARES

derers remain unconvicted," he said.

But the inference to be drawn from the number and magnitude of mistakes made by detectives was that they had colluded with the criminal father of one of the suspects to allow all five of them to evade prosecution, Mr Mansfield told the inquiry into Stephen's death, which resumed yesterday after a two-month break.

In a scathing address, he

accused several police witnesses of lying in their evidence to the inquiry. He reserved his harshest words for the three men who led the search for the gang that stabbed Stephen in Eltham, south-east London, in 1993 - Detective Chief Superintendent William Hale and Detective Superintendents Ian Crampton and Brian Weeden.

The approach of these highly experienced officers to fundamental investigative decisions was "reprehensi-

ble", Mr Mansfield said. "The errors that were committed by all three of them are so substantial and so obvious that it is inconceivable that they were not recognised as such at the time. There is, therefore, only one sensible conclusion to be drawn. That they knew what they were doing and never intended effective arrests leading to conviction to be achieved."

Listing the links that had emerged between detectives and Clifford Norris, father of

David Norris, one of the suspects, Mr Mansfield said: "There is a matrix of quite exceptional coincidences and connections here which weave such a tight web around this investigation that only an ability to suspend disbelief can provide an innocent explanation."

David Norris, Neil Acourt, Jamie Acourt, Luke Knight and Gary Dobson have all been charged in the past with murdering Stephen. None of them has ever been convicted.

Mr Mansfield said there was abundant evidence that the three senior investigating officers conspired to conceal the truth, including the "astonishing and staggering disappearance" of virtually all police files and records connected with the case.

Their claim that they delayed arrests for two weeks in order to gather hard evidence was a "charade", he said, while a surveillance operation conducted outside the Acourts' home was a

"sham". But he said the clearest manifestation of dishonesty was found in detectives' handling of a key informant who was treated "as though he were dirt that had just walked in off the street".

He said the inquiry had uncovered numerous examples of racism, including the failure to administer first aid to Stephen and the "extraordinary unwillingness" to acknowledge that the attack had been racially motivated.

Mr Mansfield called on the

inquiry team, chaired by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, to recommend far-reaching reforms when it publishes its report early next year. "The scale of shortcomings in this case is so shocking that clear and radical recommendations followed by swift action are imperative," he said.

The inquiry continues today, with final submissions from other parties. It then moves into its second part, an examination of the lessons to be learnt from the murder investigation.



A dress from Linda Cierach's new autumn/water collection being modelled yesterday in Kensington, west London

Kalpesh Lathigra

## Radio 4 listeners want fewer quizzes

BY PAUL MCCANN  
Media Editor



James Boyle: Responding to feedback from listeners

RADIO 4 is to scrap some of its new lunchtime quizzes and bring back the 9am news bulletin after complaints from listeners about aspects of the station's five-month-old schedule.

The best of the quizzes and panel games will stay, but from the new year factual feature programmes will be run after the World at One two days a week. Radio 4 has broadcast a wide range of panel games at lunchtime trying to find what it calls "the new classics".

However, calls to the Radio 4 helpline, letters and e-mails have shown that programmes like Mastermind, Puzzle Panel, Full Orchestra and X Marks the Spot are too much for listeners when they are on five days a week.

Features on arts, music and rural subjects are being commissioned now to start broadcasting in January.

The 9am news bulletin immediately after the Today programme was scrapped when the new schedule was launched in April to try to carry more listeners through into the post-9am programmes. The station suffers from a massive switch-off after all its news programmes and the new schedule was designed to hold that half of the station's 5 million audience that tunes in just for John Humphrys and The Archers.

Listeners had complained that a "landmark" in their morning routine had disappeared with the two-minute summary, a Radio 4 spokeswoman said.

The BBC chairman, Sir Christopher Blair, yesterday acknowledged that listening figures for parts of the schedule introduced in April were "a little disappointing", and Mr Boyle said it had yet to win universal approval.

Listening figures since the radical schedule changes have been mixed: audience numbers were up, but the hours of listening were slightly down. They did indicate, however, that the audience for the half-hour quiz slot after the World at One programme has slumped by a fifth compared to the previous year when the World at One was longer and was followed by The Archers.

Sir Christopher said: "I think the interim figures are interesting but inconclusive. Some aspects of them were a little disappointing."

"We always said that judgement should not be short term, and the changes in the schedule wouldn't be a quick fix."

The next quarterly set of the industry's official Rajar listening figures would give a better idea of how it was settling down, he said at the launch of the BBC's latest "Statement of Promises".

## Men fall for women who look like their mother

MEN ARE more likely to fall in love with women who look like their mothers according to a study showing for the first time that the Oedipus complex has some scientific basis.

Scientists have demonstrated that male sexual preferences are largely determined by maternal influences in the early years of life - in other words if a woman looks like a man's mother he is more likely to find her attractive.

BY STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

quasi-sexual bond, the question of whether the Oedipus complex is real or not has become the subject of controversy.

Anecdotal reports have suggested that men tend to prefer women who look similar to their mothers but none have received the hallmark of scientific credibility.

Keith Kendrick, a behavioural scientist at the government-funded Babraham Institute in Cambridge, describes in the current issue of Nature the results of a unique experiment to test the Oedipus hypothesis. He allowed newborn lambs to be fostered by female goats and likewise gave new-born kids to foster ewes. The researchers found that the

male lambs and kids developed a lifetime preference for females of the opposite species.

"We chose sheep and goats because they form close bonds between mothers and offspring, just like humans. They can also recognise each other by facial characteristics, again like humans," Dr Kendrick said.

When the fostered animals became adults the male sheep continued to prefer female goats and the male rams continued to prefer ewes even those both sets of males had mixed only with members of the own species for three years.

The female lambs and kids also showed a slight preference for males of their fostered species but this proclivity did not survive being brought up among their own kind - suggesting that women do not

share a biological preference for men who look like their fathers.

The researchers concluded: "The fact that male offspring are affected more than females, and apparently for life, is evidence that they are indeed more potentially influenced by their mothers. This indirectly supports Freud's concept of the Oedipus complex."

Dr Kendrick said the results could not explain everything about why men ended up falling in love with their future partners, although he acknowledged that in his own case it may have played a contribution.

"My wife does have some similarities with my mother in her facial characteristics, although her hair and eye colour are not the same."

Leading article,  
Review, page 3

## Hague's £300,000 poll is a 'waste'

KENNETH CLARKE last night claimed the £300,000 being spent by William Hague on the party's referendum on the European single currency was a waste of money.

Barely hiding his contempt for the referendum, the former Chancellor told the Tory leader to "stop holding these 'back me or sack me' ballots."

He said Mr Hague's leadership was secure, and rumours that he was plotting against the leader had been created by Euro-sceptics to force Mr Hague into holding the ballot.

The former Chancellor's attack sparked an angry response from Tory Central Office, which accused Mr Clarke of being out of touch with the membership of the party.

The row over Mr Hague's referendum on the European single currency is now certain to overshadow next month's

BY COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

Tory Party conference and threatened to sabotage today's launch by the Tory leadership of the party's conference agenda.

The Tory leadership had hoped to claim support of many party constituency associations for Mr Hague's policy of ruling out entry to the single currency for at least another Parliament.

But Mr Clarke's comments over Europe wrecked any hope of the Tory leadership being able to present a united front for the conference. Mr Clarke, clearly stung by criticism by Mr Hague over his refusal to take part in the referendum campaign, retaliated with a statement saying there was no point in holding the ballot of the party membership.

## Alzheimer's link to older fathers

CHILDREN BORN to fathers who are approaching middle age have a higher than average risk of developing Alzheimer's disease in later life, a study suggests.

A retrospective investigation of 206 people who have the degenerative illness, but no history of it occurring in the family, revealed a statistically significant link with the age of their father when they were born.

Some genes are known to contribute to the chance of developing Alzheimer's, but the new study, carried out by Lars Bertram at the Technical University of Munich, suggests that simply having an older father - average age 36.7 - can be a risk factor even in the absence of those genes. For those where there was a family history of Alzheimer's, the average age of the father was 31.3 years.

BY CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Editor

Though the sample is comparatively small, it is in line with the knowledge that ageing is associated with genetic damage to the sperm, which carry the father's genetic contribution to the child. That might eventually lead to Alzheimer's in the offspring. "There's an accumulation of environmental factors which somehow alter the genome of the father," Dr Bertram told New Scientist magazine.

Similar effects are already known to occur in women, where mothers over 35 have a far higher chance of giving birth to babies with Down's syndrome, which is caused by a genetic defect in the embryo. People with Down's syndrome are also more likely eventually to develop Alzheimer's.

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A pint of McMillen Special Reserve is pulled at yesterday's beer launch by north London rugby club Saracens

Richard Heathcote

# Paedophiles 'assaulted' 300 children'

SCOTLAND YARD revealed last night that paedophiles who infiltrated a breakaway scout association have sexually assaulted up to 300 children over the past 30 years in one of the worst cases of abuse ever uncovered in Britain.

Detectives, who are still investigating, believe that the paedophile ring has been operating since the early Sixties. Some of their victims have been as young as eight.

Details of the mass child abuse were released yesterday at the end of a series of trials and hearings involving scoutmasters.

Some had conspired with Brian Turner, 60, a notorious paedophile associate of Sydney Cooke, who was jailed for the manslaughter of 14-year-old rent boy Jason Swift.

To the scoutmasters, Turner was known as the "chicken-

BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

master" for his ability to procure children - who are often referred to as "chickens" by paedophiles.

Turner and three scoutmasters pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey to sex offences involving four boys, one a scout.

The scoutmasters all belonged to the UK Baden-Powell Scout Association, which broke away from the main scouting movement in the late Sixties. The group has 100 lodges and 2,000 boys.

Turner was jailed for five years in 1987 for conspiracy to bugged and indecently assault boys.

But after his release he continued his perversion. Earlier this month Turner, from Enfield in Middlesex, pleaded guilty to seven counts of indecent assault, attempted buggery and conspiracy to commit indecent assault.

He will be sentenced in October at Snaresbrook Crown Court with the three scoutmasters.

They are Keith Spratt, 49, Robert Kearns, 50, and Dennis Ward, 66, who have also admitted child sex charges.

Police disclosed that at least 10 other suspected members of the ring are still under investigation. They include teachers and social workers.

Five police forces are involved in the inquiry, which involves alleged sex offences against hundreds of children, mostly boys.

Spratt, who held a senior position in the association, is listed on the Internet as the editor of the Baden-Powell Scouts' news-sheet. Kearns was the assistant editor.

Spratt, of Bracknell, Berks, and Kearns, from west London, both pleaded guilty earlier this month to conspiracy to commit indecent assault between October 1965 and September 1997.

The pair were jailed last February at London's Southwark Crown Court for other offences involving scouts. Kearns was sentenced to two and half years and Spratt was given 12 months.

Officers found a vast library of child pornography, 14,000 negatives and 350 videos at Kearns' home. The photographs were of 52 boys, most of whom have yet to be traced.

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## Standards planned for UK degrees

THE FIRST nationally-regulated standards for university degrees could be in place as early as next year, vice-chancellors said yesterday.

University heads meeting in Manchester overwhelmingly backed plans to establish "programme specifications" governing the content and quality of all undergraduate courses. The first national standards could be piloted in Wales and Scotland next year, with the system extending across Britain by 2001. The move marks a profound shift for universities, which have always jealously guarded their right to set degree standards.

Yesterday the committee of vice-chancellors and principals rejected claims that the new standards represented a national curriculum for degrees and said they would safeguard standards for all students. Student leaders said the move would help ensure that people paying the new £1,000 a year university tuition fees got value for money.

Under the proposals, to be discussed tomorrow by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, academics will draw up broad specifications for each of the hundreds of subjects taught in universities.

The standards will show the areas graduates will be expected to cover, and lay out the depth of knowledge they must gain. The quality of individual courses will be measured against national standards.

BY BEN RUSSELL  
Education Correspondent

Officers found a vast library of child pornography, 14,000 negatives and 350 videos at Kearns' home. The photographs were of 52 boys, most of whom have yet to be traced.

Specifications will be set by academics working with the Quality Assurance Agency, the quango monitoring the quality of university teaching. Work on the first subjects, chemistry, history and law, has started.

A system of "academic reviewers" - effectively lecturers acting as expert inspectors - will oversee the traditional system of external examiners who ensure standards are maintained.

The proposals, expected to be approved by the English, Welsh and Scottish funding council within weeks, have been extensively revised.

Jim Gardner, vice-president of the National Union of Students, said: "It's not a national curriculum. It's trying to ensure that a degree from Bognor is the same as a degree from the Ivy League."

Professor Ivor Crewe, vice-chancellor of Essex University, said: "This is generally supported because it shifts the emphasis towards standards but does not impose a grotesquely heavy burden on universities."

## Drug smuggler fined £1million

A POWERFUL blow against Britain's most notorious crime gang - the Adams family - was struck yesterday when a leading member was jailed for masterminding a huge drugs-smuggling operation.

Sean "Tommy" Adams, 40, from north London, admitted conspiracy to supply cannabis and was sentenced to seven and half years. He was also ordered to pay £1m within one year or serve an extra five-year sentence. He laughed as he left the dock.

Judge Michael Carroll told Woolwich Crown Court that Adams, and his lieutenants, Michael Papamichael, and Edward Wilkinson, both 40, had run an illicit operation of considerable magnitude.

The gang had been accused of supplying cannabis worth £2m, importing the drug in three-ton loads.

The jailing of Adams and his aides is a major success for the National Crime Squad, based at

BY PAUL LASHMAR

Scotland Yard. The squad was set up to tackle drug-related organised crime.

The Adams family are believed to control a multi-million-pound drug-dealing empire in London and Spain. They have been suspected of gangland murders, gun-running and money-laundering. The family is also said to have had police officers and a Conservative MP in their pay.

Papamichael was sentenced to six years and ordered to pay £70,000. Wilkinson was jailed for nine years for the conspiracy and possessing a revolver. He was ordered to pay £30,000. A fourth man, Christos Tsekouris, 43, shipped bail. He is believed to be back in Cyprus.

Tommy Adams came from a council flat on the notorious Packington Estate in Islington, North London. Now he owns a £450,000 town house in nearby King's Cross.

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## Air traffic system is £86m over budget

THE GOVERNMENT'S spending watchdog may be asked to investigate an \$87m surge in costs for a computerised air traffic control system struck by a catalogue of failures.

National Air Traffic Services (NATS), which owns and runs the planned new control centre at Swanwick in Hampshire, has paid an American aerospace giant £216.7m - 75 per cent more than a £130m fixed-price contract signed in 1992.

The figure is also \$54m more than the £163m costs reported by the Commons Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Committee in March.

Lockheed Martin delivered the completed system, designed to relieve pressure on air traffic control staff, to NATS in April. Staff supervise more than 4 million aircraft movements from premises at West Drayton, west London.

Gwyneth Dunwoody, chairman of the Commons transport sub-committee, said yesterday she might refer the NATS contracts to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), the spending watchdog after she investigated the figures, reported today in the IT industry magazine Computer Weekly.

"The whole of this will bear close examination by the PAC because there are some very straight questions that we have been asking and we want to receive straight answers."

"The [transport] committee will have a lot of questions about costs, about implications and about the efficiency of the contractors," she said.

The sub-committee takes evidence from the NATS and the Civil Aviation Authority, its

BY PHILIP THORNTON  
Transport Correspondent

parent body, on 28 October. In April the Environment, Transport and the Regions Committee said it had been told by NATS that the computer system would cost £163m out of a total cost of £339m. The NATS annual report for 1997-98 reveals that the organisation paid £216.7m.

Neither Lockheed Martin nor the Civil Aviation Authority was available for comment yesterday. But it is understood NATS will say the £130m was intended as the amount to be funded through a capital budget rather than a revenue budget.

The news of the rising costs is the latest blow to the Swanwick centre. A series of failures has forced senior managers to admit that the new centre, originally scheduled to open in 1996, now faces a struggle to open by the winter of 1999.

The Government announced in June that it plans to partly privatise NATS with private investors, including air traffic employees, taking a 51 per cent stake in the service with the Government holding 49 per cent.

In the same month, ministers said they would investigate the computer software problems. The investigation would also look at the pressure which controllers are under at the existing centre at West Drayton. Some controllers have complained that it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain a safe separation between aircraft.



The river Don, at Penistone, in Yorkshire, turned orange by pollution from a disused coal mine

Rippa Matthews

## Cleaner will flow the Don

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY  
Environment Correspondent

A TREATMENT PLANT opens today for what may be Britain's most polluted stretch of river.

The River Don in South Yorkshire is a pristine trout stream complete with kingfisher when it emerges from its source in a reservoir. When it reaches Penistone, six miles downstream, it turns orange.

Drain water from a coal mine abandoned in 1918 is the culprit. The mine is full of lurid iron deposits which are deadly to river life. No insect, plant or fish can survive in the stretch of the river which flows on to Sheffield.

The £1.2m treatment plant will take the polluted water - a million gallons a day - into a lagoon where it will be cleaned and pumped back. Research is continuing to find a use for the iron residue. It may be used as a colourant for bricks.

The Environment Agency has joined with Yorkshire Water, the Coal Authority, a local building firm and Barnsley Council to develop the project. Half of the funding came from Europe.

## Volunteer scheme runs into trouble

PLANS FOR an army of "millennium volunteers" to revitalise sink estates and cut crime have become mired in controversy after the failure of attempts to recruit an unpaid chairman for the project.

Tony Blair is now expected formally to launch the national scheme this autumn. It will be run by civil servants after national advertisements did not produce a suitable figure willing to do the job without pay.

Despite £15m start-up funding from the windfall tax and

BY FRAN ABRAMS  
Westminster Correspondent

repeated assertions that the project was a permanent one, voluntary groups were shocked to be told at a recent meeting that they must seek their own funds after two years.

Some have also complained that they cannot run schemes for the money they are being offered - a maximum of £50,000 a year for two years.

The programme was the brainchild of David Blunkett,

Secretary of State for Education and Employment, and the groups say both he and his junior minister Margaret Hodge are deeply committed to it. But some groups are now accusing civil servants of hijacking it and watering down its aims.

Advertisements for a millennium volunteers chairman brought only 35 applicants and none was deemed suitable. It has been reported that Victor Adebawale, director of the Centrepont charity for homeless people, and John Baker,

chairman of National Power, were approached but turned down the post.

Now it will be run from a unit in the Department for Education and Employment that is being headed temporarily by Chris Wells, formerly in charge of the department's millennium projects.

Mr Blair is expected to launch nine pilot projects for which contracts have been let, ranging from community service volunteers schemes in Sunderland and Southwark,

south London, to a British Trust for Conservation Volunteers programme in Exeter.

Community service volunteers in Southwark are helping to raise reading levels in schools, working in parks and helping police with crime prevention. Elisabeth Hoodless, executive director of community service volunteers, has written to Mrs Hodge asking for help after being told that government funding will not meet the £80,000 annual cost of its programme. Others complained that a good idea

was being ruined by bureaucrats and had suffered a loss of vision. Credible applicants had been ignored. "There was a risk that the civil servants would not be able to keep a powerful, energetic chairman in check," one said. "They wanted something controllable."

A DfEE spokeswoman said there was no question of the scheme being "hijacked", and added: "The establishment of a unit within the department will help to secure the long-term future of the programme."



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## M&S poses UK jobs threat

EMPLOYMENT  
By Barrie Clement  
Labour Editor

MARKS & SPENCER is in danger of turning into "Marks & Sharks" for urging its suppliers to make more of their goods abroad to keep costs and prices down, a delegate warned the TUC Congress yesterday.

Because the company set the benchmark for other retailers, up to 100,000 jobs were at risk, said Sheila Bearcroft of the GMB general union.

The company used to boast that 90 per cent of its goods were British-made. But now, Ms Bearcroft said, the proportion had dropped to 70 per cent and was set to decline further now that the retailer had told its 15 top suppliers that they may have to use more cheap, foreign labour. "Marks & Spencer is rightly famous for selling quality British goods. It will rightly be called Marks & Sharks if it sells British jobs down the river," she said.

A spokesman for the retailer said it was essential that suppliers remained "profitable and progressive". "If we allowed M&S to become less competitive then the impact on the British clothing and textile industry really would be disastrous."



Sheila Bearcroft holding a blow-up shark as she accuses M&S of putting profits before jobs. Owen Humphries

# Unions fight over Britain joining euro

A ROW OVER Britain's potential entry to the European single currency erupted at the TUC yesterday with leaders of the country's biggest unions warning that scrapping the pound would lead to soaring unemployment.

The deep divisions within the union movement were laid bare as both supporters and opponents of the euro attacked the Government's "wait and see" stance on membership of the economic and monetary union.

John Monks, TUC general secretary, told the conference in Blackpool that a decision to join the euro would boost the economy with cuts in interest rates in the long-term and called on the Prime Minister to give clearer leadership on entry to the monetary union.

However, Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, voiced the concern of an increasing number of unions that the nation was "sleepwalking" into a single currency and warned that the European Central Bank would impose an

### SINGLE CURRENCY

By Paul Waugh  
Political Correspondent

even tighter anti-inflationary straitjacket than that imposed by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee.

Mr Morris said unions had been told to keep quiet in recent years about their fears over the euro because they would damage Labour's election prospects, but debate could no longer be avoided.

To loud applause, he called on the TUC leadership to hold an emergency conference before any referendum on joining the single currency to allow all union members to consider its impact on their jobs.

"The experience of the last few years show that full employment and the single currency do not mix," he said. "In the rush to meet the Maastricht criteria, unemployment across Europe has continued to rise."

"If you think the Monetary Policy Committee is invisible and democratically unaccountable you ain't seen nothing yet. Wait till you meet the European Central Bank - at least you know what Eddie George looks like."

Britain's two biggest unions, Unison and the TGWU, both oppose Britain becoming a member of the single currency and

are backed by several smaller unions in their claim that it would cost jobs, cut wages and lead to a crippling squeeze on public spending.

Doug Nicholls, general secretary of the Community and Youth Workers Union, called economic and monetary union a "hostile takeover" of the British economy.

Mr Monks said he accepted that many unions had doubts about monetary union but it was clear that the euro could be a bulwark of stability in a world reeling from economic turmoil. "Staying out in the cold for the time being will look less and less attractive as we see the effects of the UK being excluded from the European Central Bank and the euro group of finance ministers," he said.

He was given strong support by Ken Jackson, general secretary of the electricians and engineers union, AEEU, who said that opponents of the euro were "flat-earthers" who failed to see that large sections of manufacturing could transfer from Britain to a cheaper and more stable Europe.

Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, urged delegates to back his campaign to pull Britain out of the European Union. However, the conference rejected his amendment overwhelmingly.

## Mandelson under fire on bonuses

PETER MANDELSON will today come under pressure on a series of controversial issues including Post Office privatisation and "fat cat" salaries at the Millennium Dome.

Mr Mandelson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, will be urged by delegates at the congress to clarify government plans for private-sector involvement in the Post Office.

And the conference will expect him to justify £400,000 bonuses to senior executives at the Millennium Dome revealed in *The Independent* yesterday.

Mr Mandelson, who once worked for the TUC but left under a cloud, addresses the conference in the wake of overwhelming votes yesterday which were strongly critical of government policy towards public-sector pay and services.

The 800 delegates also registered their opposition to the Private Finance Initiative which seeks to involve private money in state projects. The TUC further registered disapproval of the possible sell-off of air traffic control and the Royal Mint together with the semi-privatisation of London Underground.

In anticipation of a cool response, the minister, regarded as one of the union movement's principal enemies in the Cabinet, will arrive on the platform with Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who is guaranteed a rapturous reception.

Ministers yesterday made clear that there would be no wholesale sell-off of the Post Office, but union leaders will

demand to know whether the Government intends to sell 49 per cent of shares in the organisation or keep it under total state ownership, with more commercial freedom.

It is understood that there is a cabinet rift over the organisation, with Mr Mandelson favouring the sell-off of some shares and other ministers insisting that it remain under government ownership. The completion of a review has been postponed several times.

Derek Hodgson, leader of the Communication Workers' Union, pointed to a pre-election promise from Tony Blair that the organisation would not be privatised. "We in the CWU worked hard with the Labour Party to ensure that a change of government came about. And we expect previous promises to be kept," he said.

Mr Mandelson faces further embarrassment after leaders of the TGWU and Unison, Britain's two biggest unions, seized on revelations in *The Independent* that three directors of the Millennium Dome were to receive huge bonuses.

Alison Shepherd, president of Unison, said: "It is just one more example of fat cats getting even fatter on a public project while the poor, low-paid public-sector workers are told they can't have a decent increase."

Bill Morris, TGWU general secretary, said: "All workers should be treated equally."

### Today's business

- Debates on globalisation, Trident, child labour and the Irish peace agreement.
- Address by Mo Mowlam, Northern Ireland Secretary, on progress on the Good Friday agreement.
- Trade and Industry Secretary, Peter Mandelson, speaks on the Government's proposals for fairness at work - followed by motions on TUC finances and organisation.

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Diners at the restaurant of the new Tate at Bankside will have a view of famous landmarks, including St Paul's

Andrew Buzman

## Hockney and Hirst set for Tate

PICASSO, DAVID Hockney and Damien Hirst will be among artists given pride of place in the Tate Gallery of Modern Art, it emerged yesterday. Visitors to the £130m converted power-station will be able to arrive by boat: a minister said a service would link the new Tate at Bankside, the Tate Gallery at Millbank and the Millennium Dome at Greenwich.

The gallery, due to open in May 2000, will be Britain's first national modern-art gallery and will show 20th-century works, with the Tate Gallery at Millbank devoted to a history of British art.

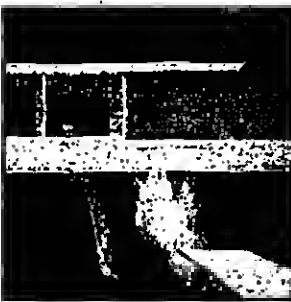
Lars Nittve, the Swede who will run the modern-art gallery under the overall Tate director, Nicholas Serota, was present yesterday at a topping-out ceremony at Bankside. He said discussions were continuing over

BY DAVID LISTER  
Art News Editor

which works would be displayed. They would be a mixture of 20th-century art from the Tate Collection and new commissions. But the new gallery would certainly contain a room devoted to the American abstract expressionist Mark Rothko. Giacometti and Brancusi will also be exhibited.

Among individual paintings to be displayed will be David Hockney's *A Bigger Splash* and Picasso's *Three Dancers*. "The Picasso is one of the five major Picasso paintings in the world," said Mr Nittve. "It's an extraordinary painting. If you want to make your dream exhibition, then it must be in it."

He added that the current crop of young British artists



Hockney and Picasso masterpieces will be among the works on display at the Bankside

would be represented, with Hirst certain to be there, though it was not known which of his works would be on display.

The conversion of the power-station includes a glass structure running the length of the building that provides natural light and gives views of St Paul's Cathedral and beyond across London. Visitors enter-



ing the building go into the vast former turbine hall, which will give space for large art installations. The main galleries for works of art will be arranged on three of the seven levels, with a restaurant on the roof.

Mr Serota said: "The Tate Gallery of Modern Art is already beginning to change London's skyline. It is our belief that it will also change people's horizon on the future. We have maintained a steady course and are confident that we will meet both our timetable and our budget."

Nick Raynsford, minister for London, who was at the topping-out yesterday, said: "The impressive but redundant power-station is being transformed into a vibrant gallery which will, I am sure, become a jewel in the crown of London's reviving south bank." He added that a riverboat service would be by the year 2000 be taking visitors to and from Bankside, and would stop at the Tate at Millbank, where a pier has yet to be built.

The original power-station, designed by Giles Gilbert Scott, is being transformed into the modern-art gallery by Swiss architects Herzog and de Meuron.

## Coming soon - city centre cinema boom

IN A spate of cinema-building unprecedented since the war, more than 500 new screens are to be built in Britain in the next four years, bringing the total to more than 2,500 - the highest since the mid-Sixties.

The Australian-based firm Hoyts plans 150 screens within the next four years at 15 multiplex centres.

It has already identified sites in London, Liverpool and Wolverhampton and its first multiplex site at Dartford, Kent, is due to be completed next summer.

Clearly, more than a century after William T. Rock first charged customers 10 cents to watch a flickering moving image at the Vitascope Hall in New Orleans, the magical lure of the cinema remains strong.

"We certainly believe there is a lot of potential in the market in Britain," said a spokeswoman for Hoyts yesterday. "The cost of opening cinemas in Britain is higher than elsewhere so we have to be pretty confident. We believe that the multiplex approach, where there are cafes and restaurants at suitable sites will continue to be a draw."

"And we do believe there is still room for a lot of growth." Odeon Cinemas, a division of Rank Leisure, and the largest chain in Britain with 77 theatres (more people went to an Odeon cinema last year than to a professional football match) is also planning to open a number of new theatres. It is opening five multiplex sites this year with a further 25 over the next five years.

The company is spending millions of pounds refurbishing its cinemas, many of which are in the high street. It believes the

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

experience of supermarkets that have opened smaller stores in city centres as well as their suburban malls proves out-of-town is not the only way to go.

Other companies, including Warner Village - a joint venture between Time Warner and Village Roadshow - and Virgin are also reportedly planning to open new theatres.

The revival of cinemas in Britain since the mid-Eighties is well-known, but the speed at which the market continues to grow has surprised many.

Karsten Grummitt, of specialist consultants Dodona, said recent research suggested that, on average, each Briton visits the cinema either twice or three times a year.

"There are many in the industry who want to raise that figure to US levels of around five times a year," he said. "But there are signs that the market there is reaching saturation point."

The company has estimated that last year's admissions total of 139.5m could increase to 186m by 2002, which is an average of three cinema visits per

person each year.

This would still be a fraction of those who flocked to cinemas in their heyday, however. In 1946, people averaged 34 visits a year, at a time when there was not the competition from clubs, television, computer games and other home-based entertainment.

The revival of the cinema industry in Britain has been attributed to investment in the theatres, better marketing and the development of US-style multiplex sites, the first of which opened in 1985.

These sites now account for 50 per cent of all visits. Better seats, easier parking and more films have all helped to boost attendances from a record annual low of 54m in 1984.

Yet some believe the film industry has also helped itself. Adam Smith, features editor of *Empire* magazine, said: "I think the industry has done a lot in recent years to try to improve the situation."

"Nowadays we have certain blockbuster films which everyone feels they have to go and see."

"The best recent example of that was *Titanic*, which people felt they had to see if they were not going to be left out of conversations with their friends. Fifteen or 20 years ago, given a few exceptions with films such as *Star Wars*, that was not the case."

"The marketing of films is much more professional and it is increasingly aimed at the teenage market, particularly the boys."

"The industry is still very, very strong and it will continue to be as long as it can still deliver a good night out with films people want to see."

FILM FIGURES		
Year	Number of cinema screens	Total admissions
1946	4,600	1.64bn
1950	4,583	1.39bn
1960	3,034	500m
1965	1,971	32.6m
1970	1,529	193m
1984	1,275	54m
1997	2,349	139m

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# Giant bird-eating dragonflies cross the Atlantic

GIANT AMERICAN dragonflies have flown the Atlantic.

Their unprecedented arrival in the Isles of Scilly and south-west England is sending waves of excitement through the ranks of British naturalists.

The insects have been identified as common green darners, *Anax junius*, which occur commonly from Alaska in the far north to Panama in Central America but which, until this month, had never been recorded in Europe.

It is believed these jumbo jets of the insect world - measuring more than three inches long with a wingspan of more than four inches - have been blown off course to Britain while migrating south for the winter.

Their arrival coincides with a spate of sightings of American birds, and follows a weather pattern involving depressions tracking across the Atlantic.

One, a male with a distinctive green thorax, has been present for a week at Penlee Point

By BRIAN UNWIN

Nature Reserve, near Rame, south-east Cornwall, and up to six have been reported on the Scillies, west of Land's End, including four together on St Agnes, the most southerly of the main group of islands.

Steve Dudley of the British Dragonfly Society, who is writing a book on dragonflies and has seen one of the green darners, said: "There is no doubt about its identification. Lots of entomologists have now seen it and are equally satisfied."

Green darners are predatory, their diet including wasps, moths, butterflies, beetles, flies and smaller dragonflies. Attacks on hummingbirds, some varieties of which are smaller than they are, have been recorded.

Dr Mark Telfer, of the Biological Records Centre of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, near Wareham in Dorset, said that there had been reports of unusually large numbers of the insect on the east coast of

North America this autumn so there was a chance more would appear with strong westerly winds continuing.

"It is quite possible for such long-distance migrants to cross the Atlantic unaided in such conditions," he added.

"If sufficient arrive there has to be a possibility a breeding population could become established, although this would be complicated by their need to migrate south to a warmer climate for the winter."

The future arrival of green darners was forecast only in January in a paper by Adrian Parr, published in the entomology journal *Atropos*.

In it he wrote: "Sporadic appearances do seem highly likely. As with birds, several of the more mobile species [of dragonflies] appear to use the east American coast as a flyway and many have a flight pattern extending into September or October, so that they are potentially on the wing at the start of the period of autumn transatlantic winds."



The American green darter, which has appeared in the south-west of England, and which could, potentially, breed here

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## POLICE SUPERINTENDENTS' CONFERENCE

# Straw to rethink victims' payouts

RAPE VICTIMS and relatives of people who have been murdered may be paid more compensation under a review announced by the Home Secretary yesterday.

The initiative follows concerns over several high-profile cases, including a woman awarded £10,000 after being raped by eight youths in London, and an initial award of £18,500 to Josie Russell, who suffered dreadful injuries in an attack that left her sister and mother dead. She was later given £79,000.

Jack Straw said yesterday that the Home Office was considering changing the tariff system to apportion more of the scheme's total £200 million compensation package to families and victims of serious violent crimes, although he stressed that no new money would be made available.

If the changes go ahead, victims of less serious crimes would get lower payouts.

Under the present compensation tariff, relatives of a murdered person qualify for a maximum of £10,000 each. Victims of assault can be awarded up to £15,000 for the loss of a thumb, up to £7,500 for a size-

gle case of rape or buggery, a maximum of £1,500 for a sprained wrist and the top payment of £250,000 for permanent brain damage.

Earlier this week, the parents of Louise Smith, the 18-year-old who was raped and murdered near Bristol as she walked home on Christmas Eve in 1995, were awarded £5,000 each. Gill and Robert Smith, a lorry driver who has been unemployed since the murder, are appealing for further compensation for loss of earnings and stress.

Mr Smith said:



# Mother tells of 'botched operation'

A WOMAN spoke yesterday of her shock and devastation when she discovered that her ovaries had been removed without her permission during a hysterectomy.

The patient, aged 54, said the operation left her with bleeding and a leaking bowel for weeks afterwards. It was carried out by Rodney Ledward, a gynaecologist, at St Saviour's private hospital in Hythe, Kent.

Identified only as Patient

BY LUCIE MORRIS

Four, she told a General Medical Council disciplinary hearing against Mr Ledward that five weeks before the operation in November 1992 she was told her ovaries were "perfectly healthy". But from a conversation with the doctor after Christmas that year, "it dawned on me the way he was talking everything had been removed", she said.

Asked if she had contem-

plated or agreed to the removal of the ovaries, she said: "No, not at all."

The hearing was told that Mr Ledward, 58, who is accused of "serious professional misconduct" over alleged blunders involving 14 women, performed the hysterectomy so badly that two litres of blood had to be removed from Patient Four's stomach and abdomen.

The woman, who has four children, said she remembered

coming round from the operation "quite alarmed" to find a doctor pumping blood from her stomach.

The complications of the operation cleared up after nine days in hospital, Patient Four said, and she went home. But after a few days she discovered she was leaking urine in a constant trickle, and was readmitted to hospital.

It emerged that during the operation Mr Ledward had

damaged her ureter - the tube leading from the kidneys to the bladder.

"I was very, very distressed going back into hospital," she said. "I didn't know what was happening. I was told I had to come in for kidney failure, which was very frightening."

Mr Ledward, of Folkestone, Kent, denies 14 counts of misconduct. He was suspended from his post with South Kent Hospital's NHS Trust on 6 Feb-

ruary 1996, after a complaint from a patient. Last December, after an independent review, he was sacked for misconduct.

Robert Seabrook QC, for Mr Ledward, told Patient Four that the gynaecologist had "great sympathy" for the problems she encountered and pointed out she had had a good relationship with him in the past, which she acknowledged.

Asked by Mr Seabrook whether she would have trust-

ed his client's judgement in advising her that her ovaries should be removed, to prevent complications before the onset of the menopause, she said: "I would have considered it, but I never had that conversation."

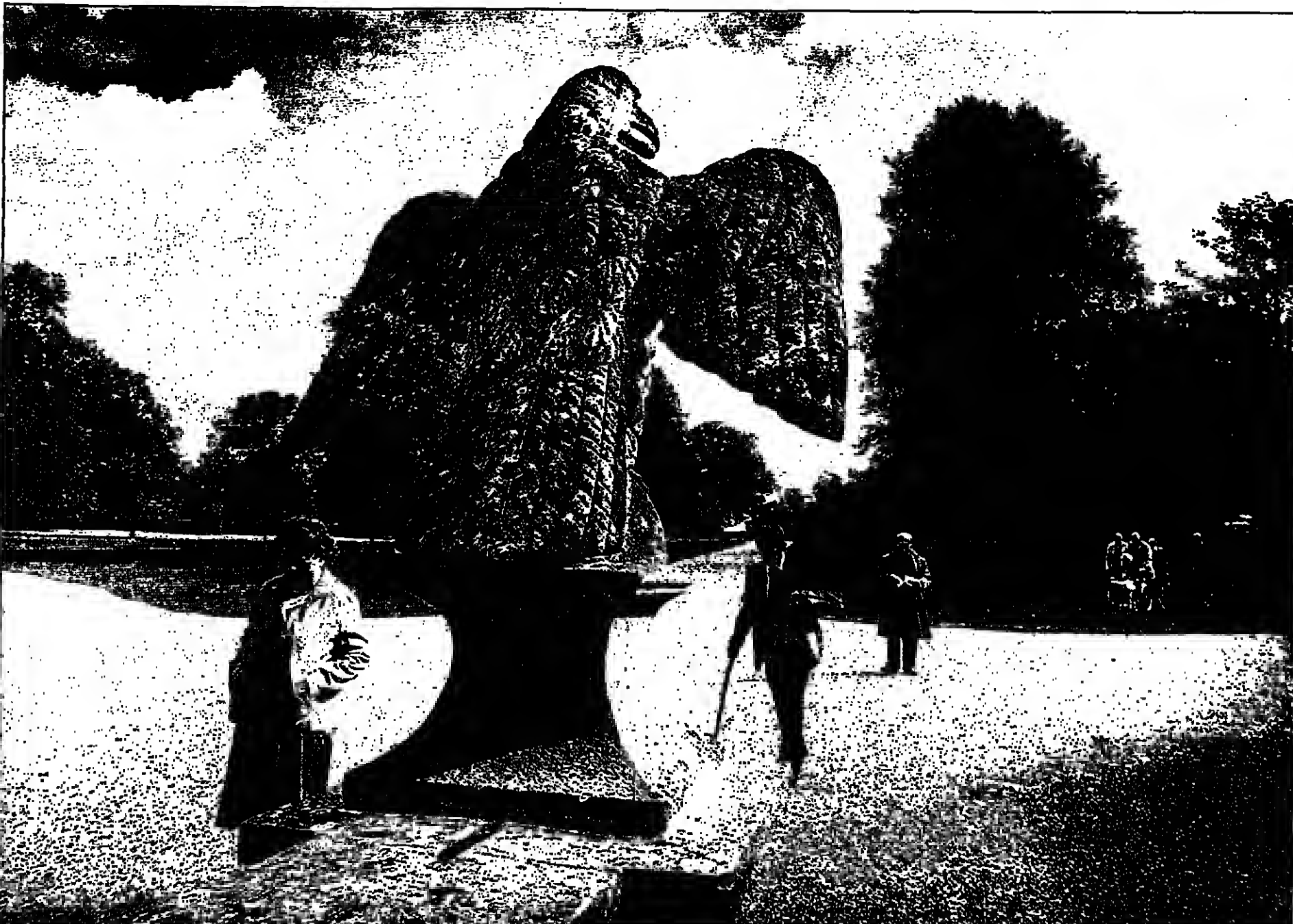
Patient Four consulted a solicitor six months after the operation. Her claim for damages was settled in 1995.

Mr Ledward has 33 years of professional experience and is a published authority on drug

treatment in gynaecology and obstetrics.

Fourteen women are alleged to have suffered because of his incompetence while he was working at the William Harvey NHS Hospital, Ashford, Kent, and St Saviour's between 1988 and 1996. It is also claimed that he tried to persuade NHS patients to opt for private care for his personal gain.

The hearing is expected to last another seven days.



Visitors to The Wyne, near Sherborne St John, in Hampshire, the ancestral home of the Chute family, during the National Trust's open day

Glyn Griffiths

## Swindling GPs prey on elderly

DOCTORS AND opticians involved in fraud are targeting nursing homes because residents are often confused and vulnerable and make poor witnesses when a scam is discovered, according to a survey.

Typical schemes involve prescribing new spectacles with stronger lenses to residents every few months and making out prescriptions for drugs that are never delivered.

John Flook of the Healthcare Financial Management Association, which conducted the survey, said: "Nursing homes seem to be a favourite target, because their residents don't make reliable witnesses - if they are still alive."

The survey showed fraudulent schemes worth £8m were detected by health authorities last year. The average fraud yielded £50,000 but the association said those detected were the tip of the iceberg. The total cost of fraud to the NHS has been estimated at £100m a year, only a fraction of which is recovered. This year ministers appointed the first NHS "fraud-buster", Jim Gee, who took up his post this month.

Examples of the scams, described at a conference in London yesterday, included a dentist who claimed payment for extraction of milk teeth from a patient aged over 100. In

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

another case, a dentist claimed for filling, then extracting, then filling again and extracting again, the same teeth in the same patient.

One of the most popular frauds by opticians, revealed in the survey, was to claim payment for tinted lenses when the customer was supplied with plain lenses.

Fraud by opticians accounted for a third of the cases, the largest proportion. Mr Flook said: "Opticians put in for sight tests they have not done or make up bogus patients. Or they claim for a new frame when it has only been repaired."

GPs charged for drugs that were obtained free and acquired medical supplies for themselves by writing prescriptions, having them delivered to the surgery and then removing the prescription from the practice records.

The survey of 74 health authorities, 60 per cent of the total, revealed 163 cases of fraud in the past year. Mr Flook said most health authorities had stepped up their anti-fraud activities but swindlers by dentists in particular were still going unprosecuted.

## Epidurals in labour denied

NEW MOTHERS throughout the country are being routinely discharged hours after giving birth, and their requests for pain-killing drugs during labour are being denied, the Royal College of Midwives said yesterday.

The case of a mother who was discharged from St Michael's Hospital in Bristol six hours after giving birth was not unusual, it said. Pain-killing

BY SUSAN DOYLE

epidural drugs were being refused on request, and given only in emergencies.

Anne Jackson-Baker, the director, said: "St Michael's is unusual because they are being uprooted about it. But it is happening at many hospitals throughout the country, because of staff shortages."

"If a mother wants to go

home after a short time, she should. But many are going home to shared accommodation, and awful bathroom facilities, and it could be too soon."

"What is worse is that nervous mothers, who fear they will not be able to cope with the pain of childbirth, are not being given the option of having an epidural. That is because one-to-one care is needed and, because there are too few midwives, they cannot have it."

The United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust sent a letter to expectant mothers, explaining that lack of staff meant epidurals could not be administered on request, and that if a mother felt able, she could be discharged within six hours of giving birth.

The Royal College of Midwives said staff shortages were

particularly bad in the South and South-west.

There are 32,803 midwives in the UK, 2,500 fewer than two years ago, according to the United Kingdom Central Council register. The shortage is more acute because more midwives are working part time.

The Department of Health said it understood that mothers were not forced to go home, but did so only if they felt able. A spokesman said: "If it is considered clinically safe and the mother wants to go home, then we agree. But the mother has to be happy with the situation."

Alan Duncan, Conservative health spokesman, said: "Labour has already proved a let-down for our health service. Now they are letting down new mothers as well."

### THE FOLKESTONE RACE COURSE PLC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company will be held at the offices of Nicholson Graham & Jones, 110 Cannon Street, London EC4N 6AR, on 9th October, 1998, at 11.00am, for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the following resolutions on special resolutions:

1. That all assets and/or property of the Company prior to the passing of this resolution, including for the avoidance of doubt the appointment of its current directors, be and are hereby approved, approved and ratified.
2. That the articles of association be and are hereby altered and amended by the insertion of a new article 6A in the following form:-

6A.1 Untraceable Members  
6A.1.1 The Company may sell any shares in the company on behalf of the holder of, or person entitled to, such shares, if the holder of, or person entitled to, such shares, has failed to provide the Company with a valid address for the purposes of the Companies Act 1985, and the Company has been unable to trace the holder of, or person entitled to, such shares, after making all reasonable enquiries.

6A.2 The Company may, in the exercise of the power of sale conferred by article 6A.1, sell any shares in the company to any person, and the proceeds of such sale shall be paid to the person to whom the shares are sold, and the Company shall be discharged from all liability in respect of such shares.

6A.3 Any notice to be given by the company to the members of any of them, and not provided for by the provisions of these articles or not being capable of being given in accordance with these articles, shall be sufficiently given by advertisement in one national daily newspaper published in the United Kingdom and one local newspaper published in the Folkestone area.

6A.4 Any notice to be given by the company to the members of any of them, and not provided for by the provisions of these articles or not being capable of being given in accordance with these articles, shall be sufficiently given by advertisement in one national daily newspaper published in the United Kingdom and one local newspaper published in the Folkestone area.

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## Cowboy builders upset 100,000

THE VAST majority of homeowners believe the Government should crack down immediately on cowboy builders - a problem which prompts almost 100,000 complaints to trading standards officers every year.

A survey published yesterday found that 94 per cent of the public believe builders and other tradesmen should be legally required to supply a written guarantee of workmanship.

The survey of 1,000 people, carried out by Skillbase, the home-repair company, and Commercial Union, the insurer, found that one in two people were concerned that they may

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

be overcharged by unscrupulous contractors. A similar proportion (52 per cent) thought the builder may bodge the repair or home improvement.

The Government is considering 10 proposals to combat the problem, including a Government-run database of approved contractors, and a construction industry kitemark to denote builders who work to an agreed set of standards.

A spokesman for the Association of British Insurers said: "Most companies have helpline services which enable policyholders to be put in contact with a reputable company."

### JOHN SUTHERLAND

'More reading is happening than at any time in history. But who is doing the reading? The over-forties and the over-fifties'

— THE THURSDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

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## Popularity polls show class divide

LL CLINTON'S approval rating has increased since January despite revelations about his sexual behaviour and allegations of perjury, a *New York Times*/CBS News opinion poll showed yesterday. But the American population has become yet further polarised over the President.

One of the curious elements of the crisis has been that at cocktail parties, dinners and gatherings of the smart in Washington and across America, it is rare to hear a good word spoken about President Clinton; the country divides on class terms, and it is precisely the chattering classes who have the most negative view. Mr Clinton could say, mixing the title and F Scott Fitzgerald, at the poor are always with you, but the rich are different. Those most likely to disapprove of the President are wealthy people in their fifties, and they have sharply revised their opinion downwards, those most likely to approve of

By ANDREW MARSHALL  
in Washington

him are poor and the young middle-aged, who think better of the President. That coincides roughly with the pattern of the economy this year, as wages have risen steadily if unexcitingly, and the poorest have slightly narrowed the gap with the wealthy.

The poll shows the President's approval rating at 62 per cent, up from 56 per cent in January, though the proportion of those who say he shares their moral values has plummeted from 41 per cent to 29 per cent.

The poll, broken down by various categories, shows some sharp differences. Eighty-six per cent of blacks approve of Mr Clinton, up from 81 per cent, whereas the figure for whites is 58 per cent, from 53 per cent.

People with incomes under \$15,000 have an overwhelmingly positive view of the President. His approval rating among them is 73 per cent, up

from 62 per cent in January. Among the rich - those with incomes over \$75,000 - his approval has dipped from 62 per cent to 59 per cent.

Age shows a more complex pattern. Support for the President in January was strongest among those aged 53 to 64. Support in that age group has fallen from 64 per cent to 56 per cent; in all other age groups it has increased.

There is a regional pattern, too. In most of the country, the President's approval rating has gone up by between 7 and 10 points since January. In the West it has fallen however, from 59 per cent to 55 per cent. In the South, where Mr Clinton's ratings were formerly weakest, they have shot up.

Electoral college figures will not bring much comfort to the President. The poor often do not bother to vote. The rich are the most likely to vote and - crucially, in an election year - they are the people who fund campaigns.



Bill Clinton with President Havel of the Czech Republic, who is visiting the US. Reuters

## Clinton's foes aim to expose evasion

REPUBLICANS INVESTIGATING

Bill Clinton's alleged crimes have taken aim at what until now has been his strongest suit and could become his greatest liability: his public image. The release of a video of him testifying to the grand jury would add nothing new to allegations against him. But it could, and probably would, make him look even shiffter, and even less sympathetic than he does already.

The video would, crucially, show that he was not penitent, as he has been in public in the past few weeks, but evasive. While Mr Clinton in public is warm and clubbable, under questioning by Kenneth Starr's investigators he became testy and irritable. A key weakness in Mr Clinton's case has been the dissonance between his legal claim that he did not commit perjury and the public perception that he did.

His lawyers say that as a matter of law, he did not. He kept to the definition of sex used in the Paula Jones sexual-harassment case, which was the only one that he was offered. Monica Lewinsky says he went further, the President denies that. In any case, they say, it is his testimony against hers, and perjury cannot be proved without one other witness.

This is all very well but the public has reacted with incredulity. That is why the President's enemies and friends alike have pleaded with the White House to change its tune and adopt a more credible stance. The video will show him being evasive and legalistic in the following exchange:

Q: [Was] oral sex performed on you, within that definition as you understood it, the definition in the [Paula] Jones [case]?

A: As I understood it, it was not.

Q: The question is, if Monica Lewinsky says that while you

By ANDREW MARSHALL  
in Washington

were in the Oval Office area you touched her breasts, would she be lying?

A: That is not my recollection. My recollection is that I did not have sexual relations with Ms Lewinsky and I'm staying on my former statement about that. ... My statement is that I did not have sexual relations, as defined by that.

Q: If she says that you kissed her breasts, would she be lying?

A: I'm going to revert to my former statement.

This exchange reads badly on paper. On video, this portrait of a man under pressure would look much worse. The second way the video may damage Mr Clinton is by shattering his public image. The way a political personality is constructed, presented and assembled is a matter of high art in US politics, and Mr Clinton has presented himself as a folksy "aw-shucks" guy. Behind the scenes that was not always true. And under questioning by Mr Starr's lawyers, for whom he has shown contempt, he was often angry and confrontational. Showing that on prime-time television will do him no good.

There is a third, and perhaps more devastating risk. The presidency is held in awe by Americans even when the office-holder is not. Showing the man with his pants (metaphorically) around his ankles will make him look what he is: a suspect under questioning, not the nation's commander-in-chief.

The presidency is, in some respects, similar to the monarchy as described by the British constitutional writer Walter Bagehot. And the President's advisers would second his thoughts on how damaging disclosure can be. "We must not let daylight in on magic," he said.



A court artist's sketch of the President giving evidence to the grand jury via a video link

## Ferraro loses Senate race

THE FIRST woman to be nominated for vice-president and one of America's most controversial mayors left the United States political scene after elections on Tuesday.

The polls were primary races to decide party tickets, and give little indication about how the scandal around President Bill Clinton has affected the political climate in America.

Geraldine Ferraro, the only woman to be nominated for the office of vice-president, lost the Democratic primary for the New York Senate race to Charles Schumer, who had spent a record \$8m. He will now face Alfonse D'Amato, the Republican considered to be one of the most vulnerable in the Senate. Ms Ferraro was chosen by Walter Mondale in 1984 as running mate, but his campaign against then-President Ronald Reagan collapsed.

Marion Barry, the controversial mayor of Washington, had decided against standing for the post this year. Mr Barry has dominated the city politics of Washington for two decades as mayor, interrupted by a spell in jail for cocaine possession. His fall from grace was followed by a spectacular repentance and recovery.

The victor in the Democratic primary was Anthony Williams, a bow-tied accountant who had trumped all of his more experienced political rivals. Mr Williams is credited

By ANDREW MARSHALL  
in Washington

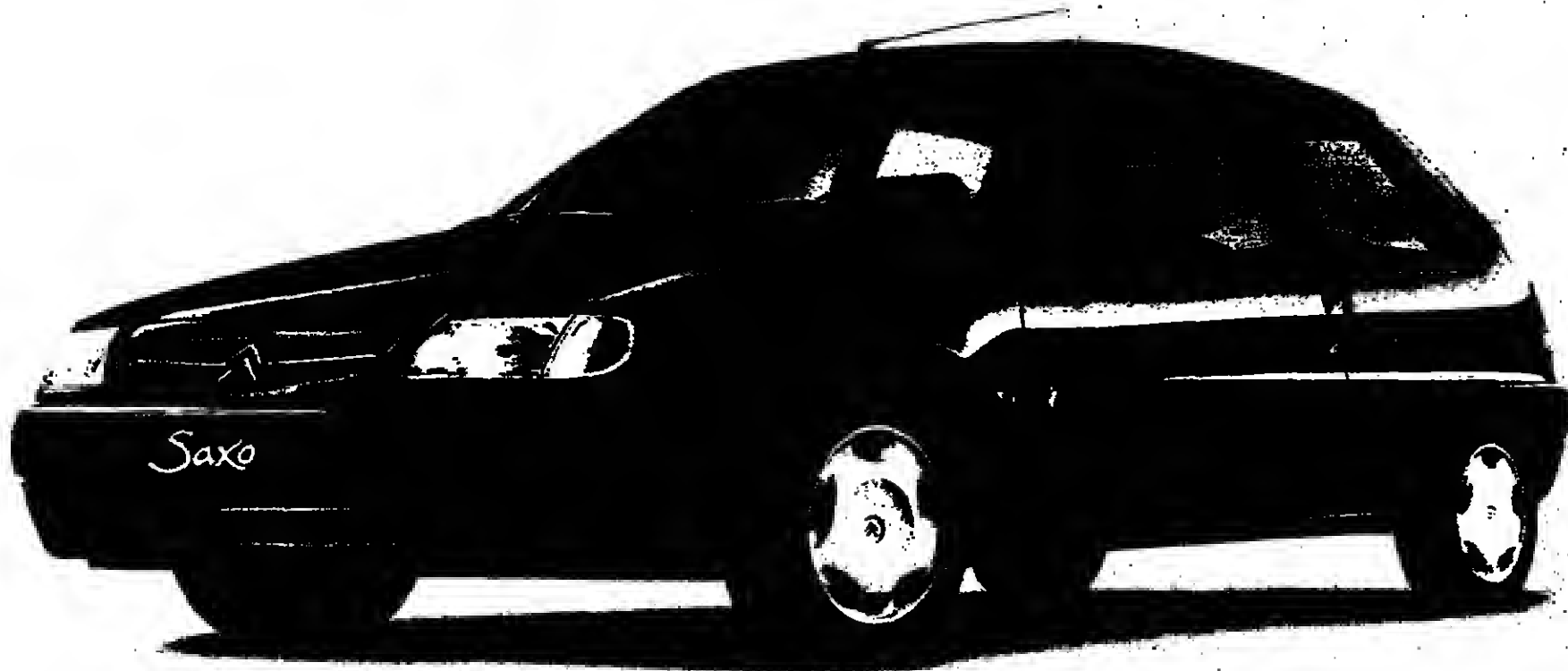
with restoring some fiscal sanity to Washington. In a city where most of the population votes Democrat, he is thought almost certain to win the mayor's office in elections in November.

Mr Williams is the new face of black politics: managerial, moderate and polished. Mr Barry was radical and confrontational, a veteran of the civil rights struggle.

In other races, Hubert Humphrey III, son of a former vice-president, will carry the Democratic banner in Minnesota against Republican Norm Coleman in the November gubernatorial race. In Massachusetts, Thomas Reilly, a key figure in the prosecution of the British air pair Louise Woodward, beat off a rival to snatch the nomination for the post of state attorney general, a sign that his handling of the case won him political plaudits.

The primaries offered a grim insight into the political education of voters. Jacquelyn Ledgerwood polled a quarter of the votes in a race to decide who will represent the Democrats in November's Senate race. Mrs Ledgerwood died months ago, but too late for her name to be taken off voting cards. Some 39,000 people either did not know, or preferred the dead over the living.

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# Russian police pounce on profiteers

DOZENS OF important-looking men in suits and braided uniforms gathered to chat in a grand, high-ceilinged room with Russian landscape paintings on the walls. It looked as though it might be some interminable cocktail party. But this group was involved in crisis talk, not small talk.

In the Russian city of Tver, north-west of Moscow, officials and police chiefs are discussing with the provincial deputy governor how to cope with the upheaval that has turned Russia upside down in recent weeks.

The deputy governor of Tver province, Yuri Krasnov, insisted that "the situation is under control". But this crisis meeting in Tver, which will be repeated every few days until further notice, made clear that fears run deep.

To prevent things from getting out of hand, the city authorities have resorted to command economy methods to keep prices down. There is a phone line for citizens to report unreasonable price rises. The tax police are then dispatched "to put the frighteners" on of-

BY STEVE CRAWSHAW  
in Tver

fenders, in the words of one official. Retailers can be prosecuted for unreported profits.

Russia's departing Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, warned that impending social unrest meant that blood might flow. So far, the attempts to keep Tver and other cities tranquil have been successful. Tver region sells itself as "the soul of Russia". Certainly, most Russians would agree that their country consists above all of the various provinces. As one resident of Tver put it: "Moscow is in a different country." There is little of Moscow's conspicuous wealth to be seen.

In its very ordinariness, little has changed here in a decade. Nine years ago it was still Kalinin, named after one of Stalin's political leaders. This was at the height of the Gorbachev reform era. But, as one man told me in Kalinin in 1989: "Perestroika hasn't reached us here." There were queues for everything, there was nothing to buy, and the Communists

were unshakably in control. Today, the former rulers are gone, though less demonstratively than in Moscow. The main street of Tver is still Soviet Square. A municipal board of honour, where photographs of dedicated Communist Party members and honoured workers used to hang, stands abandoned, with its letters missing.

Meanwhile, the shops are now full of Russian and imported goods in a way that would have been unthinkable just a few years ago. The shopkeepers have begun to despair of keeping pace with currency changes. Instead of constantly changing all the price-tags, shoppers are expected to become walking calculators. The labels in one store simply declare: "Multiply by a factor of 1.6 the prices shown."

The shock of the successive price rises has left people reeling in Tver. Tatyana Kachanova, 33, a shop assistant, said: "Before, you could live on your salary. But now, we just don't know. I'm an optimist.

I think things will revive." In some respects, the mood is less apocalyptic here than it is in the Russian capital, partly due to a greater supply of food.

Vladimir Kirillov, a newspaper editor, said: "People are more patient here. The majority have allotments, or have family in the countryside." As in Moscow, there were huge queues when the crisis was at its height. But the panic lasted only very briefly in Tver, in sharp contrast to Moscow. The price of bread was frozen by decree, and the amount of bread was increased: after one day, when the bakery was virtually stormed, everything returned to a kind of normal. Unlike in Moscow, most goods remained on the shelves.

In Tver, where Russian stoicism is developed to a degree, they are faintly contemptuous of the Muscovite tendency to make a drama out of a crisis. If the riches of Moscow are a world away, so too are the politics. What the two cities have in common is uncertainty – and a sense of being buffeted on unpredictable waves.



A boy queuing for food in Moscow, where shortages have been much worse than in the provinces

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### FRONTLINE

RAWALPINDI, PAKISTAN

## The woman fighting crime and prejudice

FROM HER desk, senior house officer Begum Shamshad Ashraf looks out on to a battlefield. Her office itself is the same as a police officer's room anywhere, with its framed photographs, miniature flags and a thick belt curled up on a side table.

The battlefield is not the dusty, dirt yard outside where goats scavenge between the armed sentries, but the maze of narrow, twisting alleys in the bazaars beyond, where her 30-odd female officers fight a daily war against murderers, rapists, drug smugglers and thieves, not to mention the prejudice of her male colleagues.

With her easy smile, lipstick and shining brown eyes Ms Ashraf hardly looks like Pakistan's most senior police-woman. But ask her about her job and the steel shows.

"I do not think you understand quite how powerful I am," she said curtly. "I could protect the Prime Minister single-handed. I do not even need this." She slapped her 38 service revolver down on her desk with a heavy thud.

As for the attention of Pakistani males, nothing has yet bothered her in 14 years as an officer. "They know better than to mess with me," she said calmly.

Ms Ashraf, 41, commands a force of 35 officers. They have their own women's police station, built in 1984 and opened by the then prime minister, Benazir Bhutto. Ms Bhutto and Begum Ashraf should have much in common. Both have made it to the top in a harsh, male-dominated world and both, if the government's allegations are to be believed, have considerable experience of criminal activity.

The station, in the relatively quiet "civil lines" area of Rawalpindi – a huge metropolis on the northern plains – was less than busy yesterday afternoon. Eight constables were on crowd control at the High Court, eight more were helping hundreds of male colleagues maintain order at a funeral for a religious leader shot dead by a rival sect.

Only one criminal was languishing in the station. Lying on the concrete floor of the

barred cell was a woman who had, Ms Ashraf said, stabbed her nephew to death. The cell holds 10 but, according to local lawyers, is regularly filled with twice that number.

Much of the crime dealt with at the station is domestic, although theft, public order, sexual offences and heroin addicts usually keep its officers busy.

To protect female prisoners, mainly from rape by male police officers, Pakistani laws prohibit their incarceration



Ashraf: 'They know better than to mess with me'

overnight anywhere but in a women's jail. By the small hours the little cell is packed with women picked up off the streets simply because they were out without their husband or a male relative.

Ms Ashraf says the job is hard. "No one wants to be arrested. We are always fighting and being beaten."

The police are not the only ones being beaten. Physical abuse of suspects, bordering on torture, is rife in Pakistani police stations. The seven women's police stations are no exception. Nor is bribing the police to drop charges restricted to male officers.

Despite the rigours of her job, Ms Ashraf has a softer side. She has two children, has two university degrees, a certificate in criminology from the University of Australia and writes poetry.

She has published a biography of Pakistan's most famous poet and is a published poet. The subject of her verses? The plight of women in Pakistan.

JASON BURKE

### IN BRIEF

#### Police hunt Bangladeshi feminist

BANGLADESHI POLICE and media are searching for Taslima Nasreen, a feminist writer who reportedly returned to Dhaka two days ago after four years of self-exile in Sweden. Nasreen angered devout Muslims by making remarks critical of Islamic laws governing women.

#### Anti-government rally in Albania

ALBANIA'S FORMER President, Sali Berisha, has vowed to continue his campaign to oust the government. Chanting "Death to [prime minister] Fatos Nano!" Mr Berisha's supporters rallied in Tirana's Skanderbeg Square.

#### Vatican to investigate cardinal

THE VATICAN plans a joint commission with Italy to examine the case of Cardinal Michele Giordano, archbishop of Naples, who is suspected of complicity in loansharking, extortion and criminal association.

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Afghanistan crisis: Islamic militia threatens air strikes on cities as Tehran orders thousands of troops to the border

# Taliban warn of instant retaliation

THE TALIBAN regime of Afghanistan said it would launch missile or air strikes against Iranian cities if it were attacked. The threats came yesterday as Iran said nine more divisions were heading for the Afghan border for military exercises expected to begin at the weekend.

At the same time, Iranian naval forces were added to the manoeuvres and a commander spoke of being pushed towards war. Seventy thousand Revolutionary Guards, including paratroopers and commandos, have been in the border region since last week. Within days there will be 200,000 Iranian troops and 25,000 Taliban fighters facing each other across the border. Both sides have deployed tanks, artillery and rocket launchers.

The manoeuvres contrasted with a burst of pacific rhetoric from Tehran, where the Foreign Minister, Kamal Kharrazi, said diplomatic approaches should be given a last chance before taking military action. He said

BY BORZU ARANI  
in Tehran  
AND JASON BURKE  
in Peshawar

Tehran had mobilised "all its efforts" at regional and international levels to "ensure our interests" and had had some results. Shia Muslim Iran has shunned the extremist Sunni Taliban since it emerged four years ago. Tehran accuses it of being a puppet of Pakistan and the US, saying they want to use the Taliban to curtail Iran's influence.

Iran also fears the Taliban is waging a campaign to wipe out the Shia minority in Afghanistan. After the militia captured the province of Bamian, in central Afghanistan, on Sunday, Iran's leaders urged Shias there to "rely on God and resist the beasts".

However, moderates close to President Mohammad Khatami are less enthusiastic about a conflict. They have warned against getting involved in a "quagmire" in Afghanistan sim-

ilar to the one the former Soviet Union found itself in when it imposed a pro-Soviet regime on the mountainous country in the 1970s.

"A direct clash is not in our interest, said the Qods newspaper, in Khorasan province, bordering Afghanistan.

"Though we can send a squadron of jets to blast Mullah Omar [the Taliban leader] in his stronghold in Kandahar," it added.

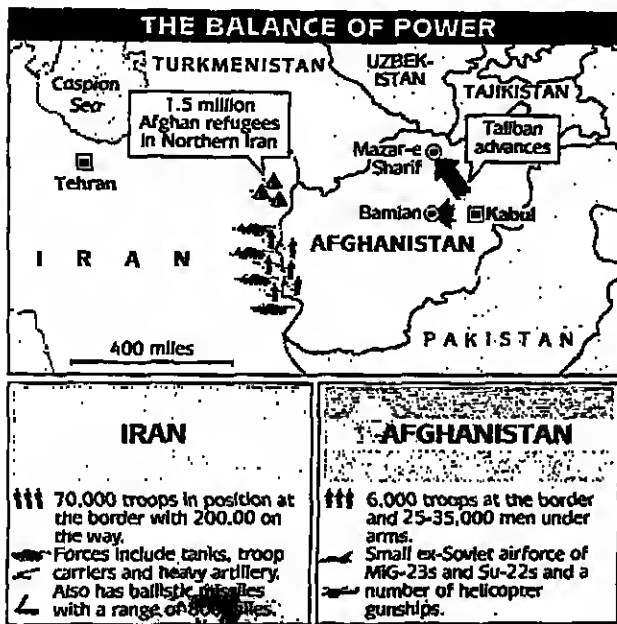
Others have suggested Iran should set up a militia of Afghan refugees, whose number is estimated at several million.

The public mood in Iran remains opposed to a war with Afghanistan, as people still have vivid memories of the 1980-1988 war against Iraq, when 300,000 Iranians were killed and 500,000 wounded.

Even so, Iran is most likely to use some kind of forceful measures to punish the Taliban. The National Security Council, the top political and military decision-making body, has been exploring military options against the militia for several days. Iran says it reserves the right under UN charters forcibly to respond to Afghan aggression.

Earlier this week Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, told his troops to be prepared for "speedy and timely" action. Yesterday senior officers of the Revolutionary Guards, Iran's elite corps, said they were ready to fulfil any order their leaders gave.

The crisis was precipitated by the killing of 10 diplomats and a journalist by the Taliban when they seized the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif last month. Though the Taliban handed over seven bodies on Sunday, neither side has softened its stance. Iran revealed yesterday that two other diplomats thought to have been killed had escaped.



Iranian women carrying portraits of the supreme leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, protest during a rally against the Taliban militia in Tehran yesterday

# Politics of oil divides neighbours

TO THE unpractised eye they are just two sides of the same coin: two radical Islamic nations engaged in an in-house feud. In fact, hostility between Iran and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan runs deep, fuelled by a dangerous cocktail of geopolitical rivalry, religious differences - and, inevitably, oil.

Only in the most immediate sense does the dispute, which has seen Tehran mass 200,000 troops along its eastern border, stem from the murder of nine Iranian diplomats by Taliban militiamen when they captured the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e-Sharif last month.

The outrage at the killings was understandable enough. But the very presence of the diplomats in a town previously held by Shia rebel factions reflects the religious divide between the Taliban who are Sunni Muslims, and overwhelmingly Shia Iran. Long before the murder of the diplomats, Iran was providing bases for Taliban opponents. Its hostility now will only be fuelled by reports of large-scale massacres of Shias after the fall of Mazar-e-Sharif.

However, nearly all Islamic countries in the region are Sunni and do not share this instinctive enmity. Pakistan has long been a source of support for the Taliban. Less obviously, Saudi Arabia has extended financial and logistic support to the radical movement. Both are Sunni, and both are among the three countries that have officially recognised the Taliban regime. The other is the United Arab Emirates.

The West, too, seems to have quietly decided that the Taliban, however unpalatable some of its methods, is the horse to back. That might not seem so after America's 20 August attack on the Afghan base of the alleged terrorist Osama bin Laden. But the US has been careful to distinguish between the Taliban and Bin Laden.

After two decades of war and civil war since the Soviet invasion of 1979, the fundamental-

ist militia seems to offer the best chance of pacifying and stabilising a shattered country. And a more stable country is a more suitable place to build a pipeline. So, finally, to oil, or more exactly, the colossal energy riches of former Soviet central Asia to the north. The prize for which the two regimes are vying is not only regional leadership. It is also the path to be followed by any pipeline carrying oil and gas from Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan to the deep-water ports in the south.

For the international oil industry, the simplest route would be via Iran, crossing just one border on its way to Bandar Abbas on the Straits of Hormuz. Unfortunately, Iran is still subject to US sanctions.

Hence the Afghan alternative. The Houston-based Unocal company and Saudi-owned Delta Oil are ready to go with a 900-mile gas pipeline through Afghanistan to a Pakistani port. Both Afghanistan and Pakistan stand to reap massive economic benefits, which is another reason for their *de facto* alliance. Their gain would be Iran's loss. Hence the suspicion that Tehran is keeping the fighting going to prevent the pipeline.

So, in the politics of oil as well, Tehran is also largely isolated from its neighbours, with the partial exception of Russia. Whether Iran likes it or not, the Taliban - which controls over 90 per cent of Afghanistan - will surely soon be recognised by the international community.

For all the belligerent talk from Tehran - and yesterday's closure of the moderate *Taras* newspaper, which had advocated a negotiated solution to the crisis - a full-scale invasion is unlikely. Memories of the carnage of the eight-year war with Iraq are still fresh, as is the failure of the Soviet Union to tame Afghanistan during the same period. If Iran uses force to avenge the diplomats, air strikes will probably be the chosen method.

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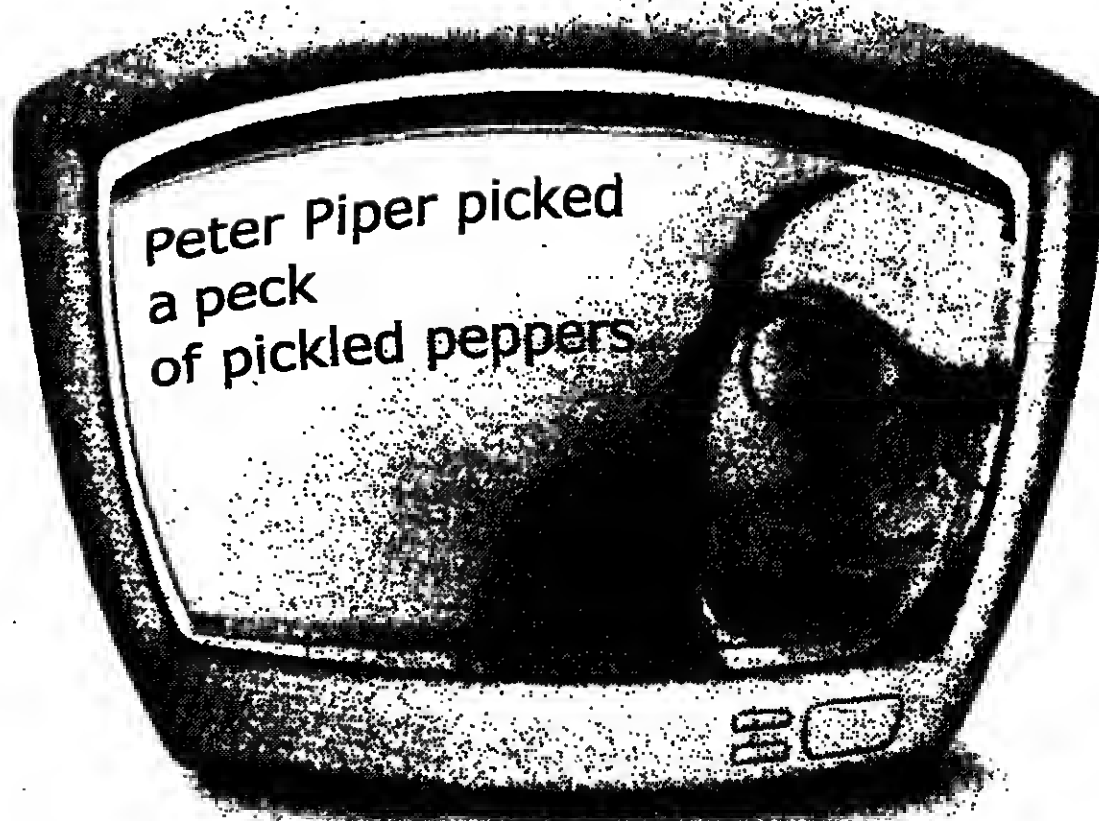
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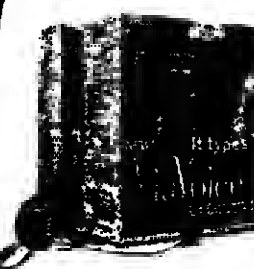


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# BUSINESS

## BRIEFING

### Mayflower in Daimler-Benz link

MAYFLOWER YESTERDAY raised the stakes in the bid battle for Dennis by unveiling a strategic alliance with Germany's Daimler-Benz that would include the bus and fire engine manufacturer Mayflower, which is fighting an agreed bid for Dennis from Henlys, said the Daimler-Benz alliance would cover distribution of the Dennis range and help with chassis development and the supply of major components such as drive trains and power units.

Mayflower is offering £255m in cash, compared with a cash and shares offer from Henlys which valued Dennis at £264m at last night's closing price. Henlys, whose offer is being backed by Volvo of Sweden, described the Mayflower announcement as "carefully worded rhetoric" which contained no firm agreement and would be of no benefit to Dennis shareholders in the short-term.

### Business Post warns on profits

SHARES IN Business Post fell by almost half yesterday after the mail and parcel services group warned that full-year profits would be lower than expected. The shares fell 332.5p to 365p after the company issued a statement saying "earlier sales forecasting assumptions were unrealistic" and pre-tax profits for the year to 31 March 1999 "may now only show modest growth over last year's figure".

The news followed a review of the group's trading and forecasts instigated after the company's founders, Michael and Peter Kane, returned as directors, with Peter Kane as chief executive. In June, the group reported full-year pre-tax profits of £19.1m, up from £16.1m the year before. Michael Kane, chief executive between 1995 and 1997, has now been appointed managing director.

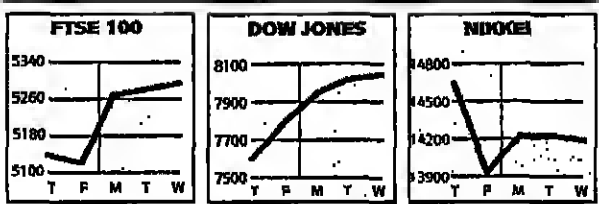
### Britannic to take on 400 staff

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE, the life insurer, saw its shares jump yesterday as it unveiled a £70m plan to recruit 400 more staff and transform its door-to-door sales operation into computer-literate financial advisers.

The Midlands-based company is boosting its national sales force to more than 2,280 as part of a programme to bring door-to-door life insurance into the modern age. Staff calling to collect monthly premiums will carry laptops.

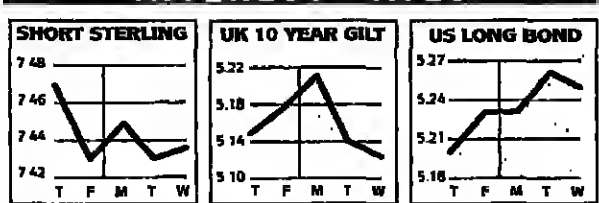
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## STOCK MARKETS



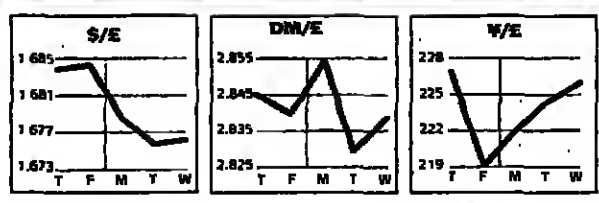
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5291.70	-10.80	-0.19	6183.70	4382.80	3.68
FTSE 250	4758.50	-25.30	-0.53	5970.30	4428.30	4.33
FTSE 350	2529.20	-7.20	-0.29	2969.10	2141.80	3.80
FTSE All Share	2451.66	-6.77	-0.28	2986.52	2106.59	3.81
FTSE SmallCap	2091.80	-1.90	-0.09	2793.80	2044.80	3.97
FTSE Fledgling	1170.30	-0.40	-0.03	1517.10	1146.20	4.40
FTSE AIM	886.10	-1.00	-0.11	1146.90	862.80	1.44
FTSE EBOC 100	898.50	-10.56	-1.19			
Dow Jones	8059.66	-29.09	-0.36	9367.84	6971.32	1.85
Nikkei	14197.70	-29.67	-0.21	18499.76	13654.74	1.07
Hang Seng	7860.68	-127.21	-1.62	12242.05	6845.79	3.20
Dax	4857.97	-26.75	-0.55	6217.83	3487.24	3.51

## INTEREST RATES



Index	3 months	6 months	1 year	2 year	5 year	10 year	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	7.44	0.18	7.08	-0.40	5.13	-1.57	4.83	-1.80
US	5.50	-0.22	5.26	-0.78	4.90	-0.35	3.25	-1.16
Japan	0.43	-0.16	0.47	-0.17	0.98	-1.20	1.48	-1.36
Germany	3.48	0.18	3.56	-0.14	4.02	-1.56	4.91	-1.30

## CURRENCIES



at 100	at 100	at 100	at 100	at 100	at 100	at 100	at 100	at 100
Dollar	1.6754	+0.23c	1.5940					
D-Mark	2.3882	+0.98c	2.8154					
Yen	226.44	+93.63	193.54					
£ index	102.10	+0.00	99.10					
5 index	102.10	+0.00	99.10					
5 index	102.10	+0.00	99.10					

## OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	West Rpt
Brent Oil (\$)	12.87	-0.27	18.21	GDP (1998)	115.40	2.80	112.48	Sept
Gold (\$)	288.95	-1.10	320.75	RPI	163.70	3.30	158.47	Sept
Silver (\$)	4.85	0.02	4.71	Base Rates	7.50	7.00		

## TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.7041	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.93	Japan (yen)	219.60	Malaysia (ringgit)	6.0372
Austria (schillings)	19.27	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0913	Malaysia (ringgit)	6.0372	Malta (lira)	0.6123
Belgium (francs)	56.64	New Zealand (\$)	3.1355	Malta (lira)	0.6123		
Canada (\$)	2.4490	Norway (krone)	12.21				
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8085	Portugal (escudos)	279.02				
Denmark (krone)	10.50	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0810				
Finland (markka)	8.3987	Singapore (\$)	2.7390				
France (francs)	9.1967	Spain (pesetas)	232.48				
Germany (marks)	2.7540	South Africa (rand)	9.6766				
Greece (drachma)	469.32	Sweden (krone)	12.69				
Hong Kong (\$)	12.53	Switzerland (francs)	2.2757				
Ireland (pounds)	1.0942	Turkey (liras)	61.58				
India (rupees)	65.16	Turkey (liras)	442982				
Israel (shekels)	5.8972	USA (\$)	1.6302				
Italy (lira)	2.717						
Japan (yen)	219.60						
Malaysia (ringgit)	6.0372						
Malta (lira)	0.6123						

Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

## Bass shares slump on profit warning

SHARES IN Bass, the drinks and hotel giant, slumped more than 11 per cent to a two-year low yesterday, wiping almost £800m from the company's market value after it stunned the market with a profit warning.

In a trading statement on the first 48 weeks of the year, the maker of Carling and Grolsch lager said that its pub and drinks businesses had been hit by wet weather; the UK economic slow-

down and two product recalls. Sir Ian Prosser, chairman, said: "We have experienced difficult trading conditions over the summer due to the poor weather, a general softening in consumer demand and other external economic and social factors."

The announcement prompted City analysts to slash their forecasts for 1998 profits by nearly £50m to around \$650m, compared with \$770m last year. The downgrades triggered a wave of selling, which left Bass shares 97p or 11.8 per cent lower, at 75p. Bass said its 2,600-strong pubs businesses had suffered from a slowdown in demand. Worst hit were houses in the Midlands and the North, where the combined effect of the manufacturing recession and bad weather caused a loss of sales

and a fall in margins. The slump in the North offset a good performance by the upmarket restaurants and slowed down profits growth to 4 per cent from 13.6 per cent in the first half.

Profits in the brewing division were dealt a £12m blow by the recall of millions of cans of lager and bitter in the middle of the World Cup after a contamination scare at one of its plants.

On the export front, the strength of sterling and lower sales of the Hooch alcopop wiped £11m from the profits of the international division. In soft drinks, unit sales of Britvic juice were hit by the wet summer weather and by a product recall which cost £3m.

One City analyst said the warning contained "three surprises: the problems with the pub business, the extent of the

impact of the product recall and the problems with Britvic. Pubs were the biggest surprise, especially when you consider all the capital Bass has spent on the division."

Richard North, Bass finance director, said most of the negative items were one-off and added that the problems with the pub business vindicated the company's decision to sell 1,750 houses earlier this year.



The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, meeting Japan's Finance Minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, in Tokyo yesterday

Eriko Sugata/Reuters

## Greenspan rules out co-ordinated rate cut

ALAN GREENSPAN, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, disappointed markets yesterday when he failed to signal an interest rate cut in testimony to a Congressional Banking Committee, and said no attempt was being made to co-ordinate interest rate cuts among G7 nations.

"I think that I can safely say that at the moment there is no endeavour to co-ordinate interest rate cuts," he said. "We are in fairly extensive conversations among the G10 central bank governors and we are clearly exchanging views on all various different aspects of our economies and our views of the overall international situation."

Markets had been hoping for hints of co-ordinated moves to lower world interest rates. The hopes had been raised in recent

BY LEA PATERSON

days following a variety of statements from leading central bankers and finance ministers.

The Dow Jones index fell by 16.74 points to 8007.65 in early afternoon trading, retreating from an earlier 57 point gain. In London the FTSE 100 finished the day up 10 at 5,291.7. Investors were nervous ahead of Mr Greenspan's testimony, which was released after the London markets closed.

Sterling closed at DM2.835, over a penny up on the day.

Speaking in Tokyo early yesterday morning, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, warned that he would not put UK economic stability at risk for the sake of intervention in the global financial crisis. His remarks were interpreted as

meaning that UK rates would not come down unless domestic economic conditions were right.

Both the US Fed chairman and the UK Chancellor said the international community was ready to help economies in need, but only if these economies took appropriate steps towards reform. The Chancellor said the G7 nations would discuss options for intervention over the next few weeks.

In London, Mr Greenspan's impending testimony overshadowed the latest UK economic data, which revealed falls in both the rate of earnings growth and unemployment. Economists said the figures were "neutral to positive" for the interest rate outlook.

The minutes of the August

meeting of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), showed the committee voted 7-2 in favour of keeping rates on hold, citing earlier increases in the rate of earnings growth and falls in unemployment as causes for concern.

William Butler voted for an immediate rise in rates, while DeAnne Julius called for a rate cut.

Headline earnings growth fell to 4.7 per cent in June, down from 5 per cent in May and better than market expectations. There were falls in the rate of earnings growth in manufacturing and services sectors.

Economists predicted that the rate could next month fall below the 4.5 per cent level considered by the MPC as being compatible with its inflation target. However, most fore-

casters, including the Bank itself, expect pay pressures to pick up again next year when the national minimum wage comes into force.

Unemployment fell by 16,400 in August on the claimant count measure, a sharper fall than the market had been expecting. The July figure was revised to show a slightly larger fall than first reported.

Some economists called the labour market data a "puzzle", saying they would expect a fall in the rate of earnings growth to be accompanied by a rise in unemployment. Several attributed the mixed picture given by the labour market data to statistical "noise", saying the data would soon start to show rising unemployment. Other analysts said the falling jobless total would give the MPC cause for concern.

When the gas regulator, Clare Spottiswoode, announced the new price controls, British Gas described them as the "biggest smash-and-grab raid ever" and warned they could mean 10,000 job losses and undermine the safety of the gas distribution system.

However, Mr Varney said the company was achieving a rate of return of 8 per cent against the 7 per cent implied in the regulator's formula, with a reduction in the headcount of 2,500.

Outlook, page p17

## BG hits target to make £1.5bn payout

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

BG, THE gas transportation and exploration group, yesterday held out the prospect of a £1.5bn payout to its 1.2 million shareholders after disclosing that it is beating the financial targets set down by the industry regulator, Ofgas.

The group, which emerged from Centrica, the trading arm of British Gas, in February last year, also said it expected to raise a further £450m from asset disposals this year, bringing the total to £1.65bn.

The payout would follow a £1.2bn distribution to shareholders last year through a special issue of 'B' shares. David Varney, BG's chief executive, said the company was now exploring the best route for returning capital to shareholders and said it would be comfortable with a payout of between £1bn and £1.5bn.

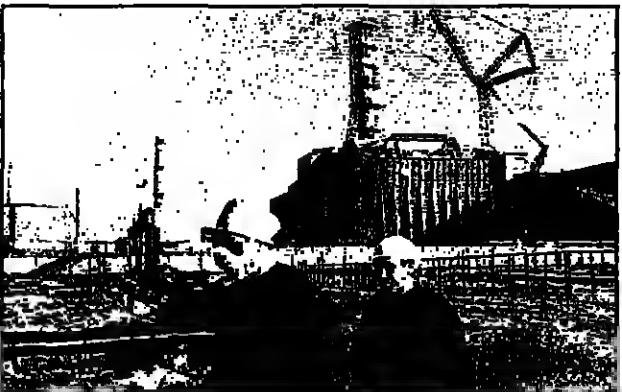
This would give it a debt-to-equity ratio of about 50 per cent in its regulated business Transco, which runs the country's gas pipeline and storage network. Mr Varney also disclosed that BG was beating the rate of return set down in its latest price control formula by between £80m and £100m a year.

When the gas regulator, Clare Spottiswoode, announced the new price controls, British Gas described them as the "biggest smash-and-grab raid ever" and warned they could mean 10,000 job losses and undermine the safety of the gas distribution system.

However, Mr Varney said the company was achieving a rate of return of 8 per cent against the 7 per cent implied in the regulator's formula, with a reduction in the headcount of 2,500.

He was speaking as BG reported second-quarter earnings at the bottom end of analysts' forecasts and lifted the interim dividend by 7.5 per cent to 4.5p. Pre-tax profits fell 24 per cent to £187m due to lower transportation charges, higher interest payments and increased severance costs.

Outlook, page p17



Work under way at the Chernobyl reactor

DBase

## AEA wins Chernobyl clean-up work

A KEY CONTRACT to clean up the Chernobyl reactor in Ukraine, which caught fire in 1986 causing the world's worst nuclear accident, has been won by a consortium including Britain's AEA Technology, writes Michael Harrison.

The contract, worth about \$5m, involves improvements to the steel and concrete shelter covering the damaged number 4 reactor at Chernobyl,

to prevent highly radioactive dust and water escaping.

AEA Technology has won nuclear contracts worth about £20m, and a further £11m contract for clean-up work at Chernobyl is due to be announced.

The company, which was floated off from the Atomic Energy Authority two years ago, has a 25 per cent stake in the Chernobyl consortium. Its partners are SGN of France and

JGC of Japan. The contract is one of the first major orders to be placed since the Ukraine government and the G7 countries agreed on a clean-up programme for the stricken plant.

It is being funded through the Chernobyl Shelter Fund, which is administered by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development on behalf of the G7.

The work also involves drawing up an emergency plan in the event of an accident occurring inside or near to the shelter.

The order is one of a burgeoning number of international nuclear clean-up contracts won by AEA Technology since its £228m privatisation in September 1996.

The shares were sold at 280p and are now worth more than 800p.

## AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

### LONDON

BLUE CHIPS failed to hold their best levels, despite increasingly confident talk that lower interest rates are on the way. Footsie, at one time up 78.9 points, ended just 10 higher at 5,291.7. Trading was brisk, with share turnover topping the 1 billion level.

Takeover talk lifted Enterprise Oil 24.5p to 390p but, as if proving beer and oil do not mix, the Bass brewing group slumped 97p to 725p after rolling out a downbeat trading statement which prompted analysts to cut profit estimates.

Derek Pain, page 21

### NEW YORK

US STOCKS rose for a fourth day in early trade on expectations that the Federal Reserve would act to keep the US economy out of recession. The Dow Jones rose 50.64, or 0.6 per cent, to 8074.85 in midday trading, before easing back to 8026 after the Fed chief Alan Greenspan failed to drop hints of possible rate cuts in his testimony to Congress.

Expectations of lower rates have grown since 4 September, when Mr Greenspan said distress in overseas financial markets could hurt the US economy.

### TOKYO

IN JAPAN, stocks were little changed as a 34 per cent slide by the struggling Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan and declines in other banks offset gains by Sony and other exporters. The dollar surged against the yen amid speculation that the G7 would help Latin American markets shore up their currencies. The Nikkei 225 index fell 29.67 points to 14,197.70.

The Nihon Keizai newspaper said it will add Asahi Bank and Kokusai Denshin Denwa to its Nikkei 225 from 24 September, replacing Nihon Cement and Showa Line.

### HONG KONG

THE PROSPECT of an imminent interest rate cut by Peking powered a third day of gains for red-chip stocks with the index of state-owned Chinese companies jumping 7.5 per cent to a two-month high. So far this month, China stocks are the best-performing stocks in Hong Kong as a strengthening yen and hints that Peking may cut rates allay concern of a yuan devaluation.

The Hang Seng index rose 127.21, or 1.64 per cent, to 7,860.68, paced by Hutchison Whampoa and HSBC Holdings.

### SAO PAULO

BRAZILIAN SHARES raced upwards in midday trade as new-found confidence that a financial crisis was not imminent took hold. Seeds for the new optimism were planted on Tuesday as rumours circulated of an aid package from the International Monetary Fund. Brazilian officials later said they were in talks with the IMF only about crisis prevention.

The Bovespa index started wobbly after surging 18 per cent on Tuesday, but later renewed the upward charge, rising 7.22 per cent to 7,404 points by 1616 BST.

الشرق الأوسط



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# British firms go unpaid in Russia chaos

IT LOOKS as inevitable as the onset of Russia's freezing winter: Soviet-era economic remedies are back in fashion in Moscow.

And British companies, once heroic pioneers on the rough soil of its opening markets, are looking on in mute horror.

The new Prime Minister, Yevgeny Primakov has yet to complete assembling his team, but the presence of two veterans – the Soviet-era central banker Viktor Gerashchenko and Yuri Maslyukov, once head of Gosplan – has been enough to instil international gloom. Talk abounds of protectionism and Soviet-style hard currency controls.



Gerashchenko: Soviet-era central banker is back

Even the latest top government appointment, a pro-marketeteer called Alexander Shokhin, admitted yesterday that, without western aid, the money-printing presses will roll; it would now be a miracle if they didn't.

None of the thousands of foreign companies working in Russia – including about 300 from Britain – is insulated from the fall-out of Russia's deepening economic crisis, which saw the rouble fall again yesterday. Scores of locally hired staff have been laid off. Others have gone unpaid for weeks, because of the paralysis which has seized the Russian banking system.

BY PHIL REEVES  
in Moscow

One survey of 50 foreign companies is said to have found that, together, they are owed \$450m, trapped by the banking freeze. The effect is to bring business to a halt.

"We've stopped importing stock," said Paul Carter, of SmithKline Beecham, which imports cosmetic and pharmaceutical products such as Aquafresh toothpaste, and is currently owed \$20m by its Russian clientele. "At the moment there is a vacuum in the market, in which we have the consumer demand but no product. It's incredibly frustrating."

Like many, Mr Carter is trying to recover his company's money while also watching for clues to the new Russian government's economic policy. "The big fear of the multinational importers is that the rouble will be truly convertible, as we have to pay for our products in hard currency."

Inevitably, the crisis has also spawned its own class of grifters, who are not affected by it directly, but claim to be. Suspicions abound that some Russian distributors, now not paying for their products, have bulging US dollar accounts offshore – "escape money" against the day that the government finally implodes and retributions begin or, for that matter, the taxman's knock on the door.

Ultimately, there is little that foreign creditors can do to recover their money, beyond refusing to supply more stock or offering generous rescheduling deals. The legal system is still strewn with loopholes, and the courts are overburdened. Personal relationships, forged over the vodka bottle, now count as never before. But many millions will be written off.

All this amounts to a reversal of fortune in which the foreign importers helped create the conditions for their current woes. Hungry to penetrate vast, untouched markets, they were willing to expand aggressively despite the lack of credit sources (banks were far more interested in pocketing the profits of high-interest short-term government paper than lending to Russian entrepreneurs).

They found themselves extending ever-larger credits to their distributors, most of which were, in effect, unsecured because of the byzantine nature of the legal system. Worse, some foreign companies were hired into a complex web, from which it is now impossible to squeeze funds because they do not know with whom they are dealing.

For instance, they signed distribution deals with shell offshore companies, only to have the goods received by one subsidiary, while a second would undertake to make payments. The result, according to experts at Andersen Legal (an affiliate of

Arthur Andersen), is that their debtors are judgment-proof.

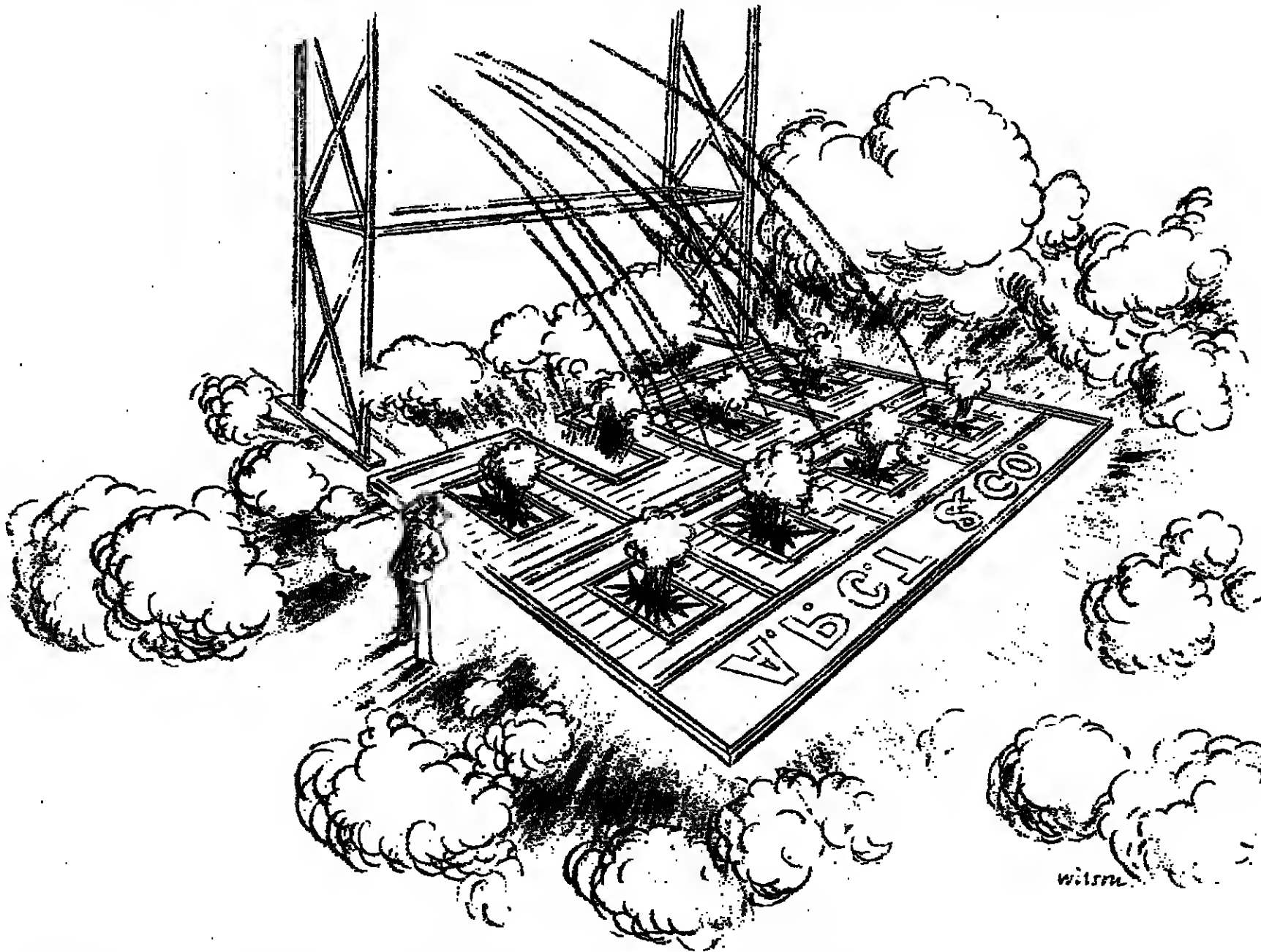
Even if the system extracts itself from its current gridlock, the effects will be felt for a long time. Trust – between foreign importer and local distributor, banker and client – has been dealt a bruising blow.

A year ago, there was euphoria among Moscow's foreign companies, who were rubbing their hands gleefully at the prospect of a growing economy in a country of 147 million, replete with vast potential markets. All that has changed. Unless Mr Primakov and his friends overhaul the Russian banking and legal system, confidence is unlikely to recover fast.



A demonstrator carrying a picture of Lenin shouts anti-Yeltsin slogans at a demonstration in Moscow. Soviet-era economic remedies are coming back into fashion and foreign companies working in Russia have to decide whether to soldier on amid corruption and chaos

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## IN BRIEF

### New measure from accounting watchdog completes crackdown

THE Accounting Standards Board has completed its crackdown on financial engineering excesses with today's publication of a standard outlawing companies from including provisions in their accounts unless they have an obligation to meet such liabilities as pollution or restructuring costs.

Financial Reporting Standard 12 is designed to spell the end of "big bath" accounting where organisations made huge provisions for future reorganisations and then fed them back into income over several years with the aim of smoothing accounts.

### Wassall looks for £1bn buys

WASSALL, the mini-conglomerate changing into an investment trust, said it could spend up to £1bn on acquisitions. The company, which is fighting a takeover battle for lighting group TLG, said it was looking at "low-tech" businesses, such as engineers, in Europe and Asia. Interim operating profits rose 10 per cent to £14m.

### Parc scraps £40m flotation

PARC, a specialist recruitment company, yesterday scrapped its £40m flotation because of difficult market conditions. The company, a management buyout from the Irish airline Aer Lingus, said it pulled the float because "the value achievable in the current market conditions would not reflect the true quality of the business".

### Better cost savings at Somerfield

SHARES IN Somerfield, the supermarket group, received a boost yesterday when the company said cost savings from its merger with Kwik Save will be £20m higher than thought. Somerfield told shareholders at its annual meeting yesterday that it anticipated savings of more than £20m. The company said like-for-like sales in the first six weeks at its main Somerfield stores were "stable" at minus 2.1 per cent. The shares rose 22p to 467.5p.



20/SHARES									
High	Low	Open	Close	High	Low	Open	Close	High	Low
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>									
894	252	252	252	895	252	252	252	896	252
897	252	252	252	898	252	252	252	899	252
900	252	252	252	901	252	252	252	902	252
903	252	252	252	904	252	252	252	905	252
906	252	252	252	907	252	252	252	908	252
909	252	252	252	910	252	252	252	911	252
912	252	252	252	913	252	252	252	914	252
915	252	252	252	916	252	252	252	917	252
918	252	252	252	919	252	252	252	920	252
921	252	252	252	922	252	252	252	923	252
924	252	252	252	925	252	252	252	926	252
927	252	252	252	928	252	252	252	929	252
930	252	252	252	931	252	252	252	932	252
933	252	252	252	934	252	252	252	935	252
936	252	252	252	937	252	252	252	938	252
939	252	252	252	940	252	252	252	941	252
942	252	252	252	943	252	252	252	944	252
945	252	252	252	946	252	252	252	947	252
948	252	252	252	949	252	252	252	950	252
951	252	252	252	952	252	252	252	953	252
954	252	252	252	955	252	252	252	956	252
957	252	252	252	958	252	252	252	959	252
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972	252	252	252	973	252	252	252	974	252
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981	252	252	252	982	252	252	252	983	252
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987	252	252	252	988	252	252	252	989	252
990	252	252	252	991	252	252	252	992	252
993	252	252	252	994	252	252	252	995	252
996	252	252	252	997	252	252	252	998	252
999	252	252	252	1000	252	252	252	1001	252
1002	252	252	252	1003	252	252	252	1004	252
1005	252	252	252	1006	252	252	252	1007	252
1008	252	252	252	1009	252	252	252	1010	252
1011	252	252	252	1012	252	252	252	1013	252
1014	252	252	252	1015	252	252	252	1016	252
1017	252	252	252	1018	252	252	252	1019	252
1020	252	252	252	1021	252	252	252	1022	252
1023	252	252	252	1024	252	252	252	1025	252
1026	252	252	252	1027	252	252	252	1028	252
1029	252	252	252	1030	252	252	252	1031	252
1032	252	252	252	1033	252	252	252	1034	252
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1047	252	252	252	1048	252	252	252	1049	252
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1053	252	252	252	1054	252	252	252	1055	252
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1059	252	252	252	1060	252	252	252	1061	252
1062	252	252	252	1063	252	252	252	1064	252
1065	252	252	252	1066	252	252	252	1067	252
1068	252	252	252	1069	252	252	252	1070	252
1071	252	252	252	1072	252	252	252	1073	252
1074	252	252	252	1075	252	252	252	1076	252
1077	252	252	252	1078	252	252	252	1079	252
1080	252	252	252	1081	252	252	252	1082	252
1083	252	252	252	1084	252	252	252	1085	252
1086	252	252	252	1087	252	252	252	1088	252
1089	252	252	252	1090	252	252	252	1091	252
1092	252	252	252	1093	252	252	252	1094	252
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1158	252	252	252	1159	252	252	252	1160	252
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1215	252	252	252	1216	252	252	252	1217	252
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1224	252	252	252	1225	252	252	252	1226	252
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1245	252	252	252	1246	252	252	252	1247	252
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1287	252	252	252	1288	252	252	252	1289	252
1290	252	252	252	1291	252	252	252	1292	252
1293	252	252	252	1294	252	252	252	1295	252
1296	252	252	252	1297	252	252	252	1298	252
1299	252	252	252	1300	252	252	252	1301	252
13									







## SPORT

## Tyson's primitive appeal primes fascination

A PRETTY SAFE bet is that more airtime and column inches will be given this weekend to Mike Tyson's plea for the restoration of his boxing licence than world title defences by two of the sport's leading champions, Evander Holyfield and Oscar de la Hoya.

In drawing almost as many reporters to Las Vegas as would be expected there for a major fight promotion, Tyson's appearance before the Nevada State Athletic Commission 15 months after it suspended him indefinitely for sinking teeth into one of Holyfield's ears tells boxing more than it wants to hear.

Never in a more parlous state than it is presently, lacking genuine personalities and beset by main-

ly spurious championship contests, professional boxing has no figure with the appeal of an utterly discredited former heavyweight champion who was twice out-fought by Holyfield.

Much admiration was held out for Holyfield in those contests, but general indifference to a defence of the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation titles against Vaughn Bean at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta on Saturday confirms that he is not automatically a crowd puller.

The same can be said about Lennox Lewis, who is putting up his World Boxing Council heavyweight championship against Zeljko Mavrovich, of Croatia, in Connecticut on 26 September.

Mavrovich is unbeaten but as the combined total of victories recorded by his 30 victims is no higher than 27 per cent indifference to this one is even more understandable.

In the same ring – both camps can be held to account for failing to agree on a unification bout – Holyfield and Lewis would post healthy pay-per-view numbers but their presence individually does not guarantee an audience. That Lewis is defending on a native American reservation, not one of the main boxing centres, speaks for itself.

The remark of a veteran American ringside reporter that neither man can draw flies over there without going at each other or walking naked along Fifth Avenue is too



KEN JONES

cynical even for my taste, but his view that Tyson still dwarfs them in public estimation is more fact than opinion.

Discouragingly for anyone who

was drawn to the rough old game by impressions of inherent nobility, fascination with Tyson springs more from his violent assaults on decent behaviour than anything he has achieved in the ring.

Since there is no doubt at all that the return of Tyson's licence would restore him as boxing's most marketable figure, the relevant question is whether the sport has a future in the coming millennium.

The signs are not good. Hostage to television and therefore explosions of ludicrous hyperbole, boxing attempts to serve a generation that places it in the thespian realm of professional wrestling.

De la Hoya's defence of the World Boxing Council welter-

weight title against Julio Cesar Chavez in Las Vegas tomorrow calls the sport further into question.

One of the great modern champions with more than 100 victories and only two defeats, Chavez, now 36, is given no chance against De la Hoya, who stopped him in four rounds two years ago.

Two weeks ago a bloated Roberto Duran had to be rescued from a battering by William Joppy in a forlorn challenge for the World Boxing Association middleweight championship. Arguably the greatest lightweight in history, Duran is 47 years old. The once terrific Ghanaian super-featherweight Azumah Nelson is still fighting in his 40th year, losing more often than he wins.

History shows that plenty of champions have gone on past their time – Sugar Ray Robinson is the saddest example – but never before in such numbers.

If boxing's ills relate directly to the proliferation of self-serving organisations and television's preoccupation with mainly bogus titles, then public taste comes into it, too.

In Tyson's case it is what a friend with many hours logged at ringside refers to as the "King Kong syndrome". It is not Tyson the fighter people see but Tyson the primitive.

The word is that Nevada will look favourably on Tyson's plea. That is a compromise, not a solution.

Cricket: Birkenshaw's bonding has produced a Leicestershire team on the brink of another Championship

## Wells and Lewis tap into spirit of unity

COINCIDENCES CAN be curious and spooky things at times. For example, on both the occasions that Leicestershire have won cricket's County Championship, in 1975 and 1996, the only match they lost was against Surrey at The Oval. However, it cannot happen again.

The race for this year's Britannic Assurance title has come down to the last round of fixtures, which start today. There are still three contenders: Lancashire, who play Hampshire at Old Trafford, plus Leicestershire and Surrey, who face each other... at The Oval.

Leicestershire, who lead by nine points, are the favourites, but the contest is so close that the only way they can be sure of taking the major prize is to win. Defeat would hand the title to Surrey. A draw could allow Lancashire, who have already won the NatWest Trophy and the AXA League, to complete a glorious treble.

There is one other element that the Leicestershire teams of '75 and '96 – and today – have in common and that is the presence of Jack Birkenshaw, an off-spinning all-rounder in the side Ray Illingworth dragged from the cricketing wilderness in the mid-1970s, and who this season has demonstrated again, in his capacity as manager, the ability to mould a cricket team into something greater than the sum of its parts.

Leicestershire are one of those counties who, for want of a label, are often deemed "unfashionable". That is not to say they have no good players but none who readily spring to mind in the thought processes of journalists or Test selectors.

Unlike Lancashire or Surrey, whose dressing-rooms are dominated by international players, no Leicestershire man has appeared in a Test match all summer, although Alan Mullally, their improving left-arm pace bowler, is going to Australia. Even their over-

BY JON CULLEY

seas player, the redoubtable West Indian, Phil Simmons, has had an unremarkable year.

What they do have, however, is a wide spread of players who are not great but who are better than good. No batsman, for example, has 1,000 Championship runs; but Ben Smith has 961, two others have 800-plus and four others around 500 each. And no bowler has taken 70 wickets; but after Mullally, on 57, six others average close to 30 each.

This compares unfavourably with 1996, when four batsmen topped 1,000 runs and five bowlers more than 40 wickets. Yet if they come out on top over the next four days, this season's side will have won more matches – 11 against 10.

The secret, if there is one, apart from having a side undisturbed by Test calls, is that Birkenshaw and his first lieutenant, captain James Whitaker, have fostered and maintained a one-for-all team culture to which few others come close.

Vince Wells, the 33-year-old all-rounder who spent three frustrating years trying to make progress with Kent, appreciates this factor more than most.

"One of the things that is special about this team is that we get on very well with each other as friends as well as team-mates," he said. "Players often spend time together off the field as well as on it. Often within a county side cliques develop and some players feel left out, but that does not exist here."

"As a result, I think the players here are that little bit more keen to do well for the team, to make a contribution, because they enjoy playing together and want to succeed together."

Wells, in some ways, is Birkenshaw's ideal player, an all-round team man as capable of winning a match with the ball as the bat. His record going into the final round is



Jack Birkenshaw (right), the Leicestershire manager, is his team's pivotal figure at The Oval yesterday as they prepare for today's decisive match Peter Jay

302 Championship runs at 36.45 and 34 wickets from his medium-pace bowling at a miserly 14.79. Opportunities had been so limited for him at Kent before his arrival at Grace Road in 1992 that his transfer was hardly a headline-making event. Yet Birkenshaw had identified in him just the qualities he believed were essential in the side he wanted to build.

"He always had good style," Birkenshaw said. "He hit the ball cleanly, timed it well; and he had a good bowling action."

"But I could tell also he would have the right attitude. He had been a footballer so he was likely to be a good competitor and I felt he wanted to play if he could only find an opportunity."

"He had not had that at Kent. If people don't believe in you and you are always looking over your shoulder, it is difficult to be at your best. A player's character in many ways is as important as his ability and I sensed he had the character I was looking for."

In view of such comments, it was

surprising to see Birkenshaw re-engage the maverick talents of Chris Lewis, the England all-rounder whose undoubted class has been hindered frequently by problems of temperament.

Yet Lewis, who will relish the chance to outshine his former Surrey colleagues, has made important contributions to bringing Leicestershire to the brink of a second title in three seasons, as batsman, bowler and stand-in captain. Few who were present will forget his astonishing performance against

Northamptonshire at Grace Road in July when Leicestershire chased an improbable 204 runs in 20 overs to win – and pulled it off. That triumph was thanks largely to Wells making a half-century off 25 balls and Lewis hitting an unbeaten 71 in a mere 33.

Such inspired performances owe much, Wells says, to the influence of Whitaker, who has not played since April because of a knee injury yet has fulfilled his captain's role as much as he has been able.

"James has still played a big part," he said. "He is very good on the mental side of the game. He talks to people a lot and has the knack of motivating players, to get that little bit more out of them."

They will, collectively, need to play above themselves between now and Sunday evening, against a Surrey side driven by Alec Stewart's desire to complete a memorable summer by helping his county win the title for the first time since his father led them to glory in 1971.

## Simmons' men in pole position for pennant

FOUR DAYS, three teams and a Championship. If the phrase sounds like the title of a blockbuster film the glamour will be strictly localised as cricket's equivalent of the Premiership is concluded in front of less than full houses at The Oval and Old Trafford.

Three teams – Leicestershire, Surrey and Lancashire – head the running for the Championship pennant, still the most highly regarded domestic competition. But if the kudos remains, the prize money – £100,000 to be shared among the winning team – is piffling, amounting as it does to about a month's salary for a footballer plying his trade with one of Britain's leading clubs.

Of the trio fighting for the spoils, only Leicestershire, who lead Surrey and Lancashire by nine and 11 points respectively, can conceivably win by

BY DEREK PRINGLE  
Cricket Correspondent

drawing – their match is against second-placed Surrey.

To prevail that way would rely on Lancashire winning with fewer than full bonus points against Hampshire. As this is the easier of the two matches, on paper if not meteorologically, Phil Simmons' men would probably be advised to win first and leave the contingencies to those below them.

Bonus points apart, the other imponderable is the early autumn weather. Domestic cricket desperately needs exciting grand finales like this and it would be a pity if the whole thing were to be rendered disappointingly predictable by persistent downpour. So far the forecast is for rain on Friday.

Leicestershire, the only side in the top three playing away, will, nevertheless, be favourites to secure the trophy they won two years ago. With five victories in a row, their momentum is as impressive as their pace bowling which, providing an extra spinner is not required, knows it has one more important assignment to complete.

Alan Mullally, Chris Lewis and James Ormond versus Mark Butcher, Alec Stewart and possibly Graham Thorpe is about as good a contest between bat and ball as it gets in England outside a Test. Forget cricket's antediluvian reputation as the gentleman's game, the next few days under the gasometer promises to be a begrudging and ill-tempered contest.

Surrey, who last won the Championship in 1971 when Alec Stewart's

father, Mickey, was captain, will be without their leading bowler, the Pakistan off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq. With The Oval one of the few places to help spinners this summer, Saqlain's departure to the superfluous Sahara Cup in Toronto is a callous slight on his team-mates and further blights the merits of counties hiring expensive overseas players.

As Surrey's chief match-winner with 63 wickets, Saqlain will be badly missed. Instead of having a world-class spinner to control the game with, Adam Hildoke will be forced to turn exclusively to the leg-spinner Ian Salisbury, a plan England also followed this summer for no reward.

Lancashire have no such problems with their overseas player, Wasim Akram, who finding himself

in the middle of renewed accusations of match-fixing has put his international career on hold in an effort to clear his name.

Wasim may not be at Old Trafford next year, but he seems determined to give the Red Rose supporters something to remember him by and having captained them to two trophies this season, a third would surely result in near deification. Now that Rupert Murdoch appears to have caused heresy among the followers of Manchester's red religion, idols need only to have spice rather than a Spice Girl to be worshiped.

The pressure of expectation, long overdue in the case of both Surrey and Lancashire, is not to be trifled with. For instance, Lancashire have not won the Championship outright since 1934, though they did share it with Surrey in 1950, a result not

possible now that wins and losses are taken into account should the points be level.

Michael Atherton, missing for the last two matches with a bad back, is expected to be fit to renew his battles with Hampshire's West Indian fast bowler, Nixon McLean. Lancashire managed to come second in Atherton's first year at the club in 1997 and it remains a burning ambition of his, despite absenteeism, to win the Championship.

John Crawley next year's captain, will also be fired up, and barring disaster and some prolific scoring from Steve James or Carl Hooper, will finish with the season's highest aggregate of first-class runs. Whether he has a Championship medal to go with it really depends on Surrey and Leicestershire fighting each other to a standstill.

CHAMPIONSHIP  
CONTENDERS

## TOP OF THE TABLE

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Leics	16	10	0	6	268
Surrey	16	10	4	2	259
Lancs	16	10	1	5	257

Remaining fixtures (starting today):  
The Oval: Surrey v Leicestershire  
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Hampshire

## POINTS AVAILABLE

Sixteen for a victory (three for a draw) plus a maximum of eight bonus points in the first 120 overs of the first innings (four for batting, four for bowling). Bonus points are awarded for reaching 200 (one), 250 (two), 300 (three) and 350 (four) and for taking 3-4 wickets (one), 5-6 (two), 7-8 (three) and 9-10 (four).



## Shaw's unlikely silver return

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

LORRAINE SHAW got two powerful hands on England first athletics medal of the Commonwealth Games on day when Denise Lewis closed in on a third major heptathlon title.

Just six months ago, Shaw was making a tentative return to hammer throwing after having four metal pins and steel plate put into her back following an operation to remove a troublesome disc.

On the opening day of athletics programme, she secured a silver medal with a first round effort of 62.66m. Australia's Deborah Sosimen won the gold with 66.56m.

Her reward, in the vast Bukit Jalil stadium, was a first major championship medal.

A faintly bewildered Shaw confessed that she had almost ruined her chances by throwing on her first two attempts. One more mistake would have left her empty-handed, but she responded with a throw of 61.81m.

Lewis finished the first of the heptathlon with an eight-point lead over her nearest challenger, Australia's Jamie Jamieson. With two of her strongest events to come tomorrow - the long jump and javelin, she plans to settle the competition before the concluding 800m.

She ran 13.77sec for 100m hurdles, finished equal first in the high jump with 1.82m - 1cm below her personal best - won the shot with 15.06m and ran the 200m in 24.47sec.

Thus she is poised to retain the title which marked her emergence to a top-class career which has since brought her Olympic bronze, World silver and - less than a month ago - European gold.

One more step for Lewis, however, one giant leap for Canada. Blades, an 18-year-old schoolgirl from Belize making a debut in international competition, competed yesterday with an ankle injury sustained by training on her home country's one grass track. She finished the day at the other end of the standings, 1,798 points adrift of Lewis.

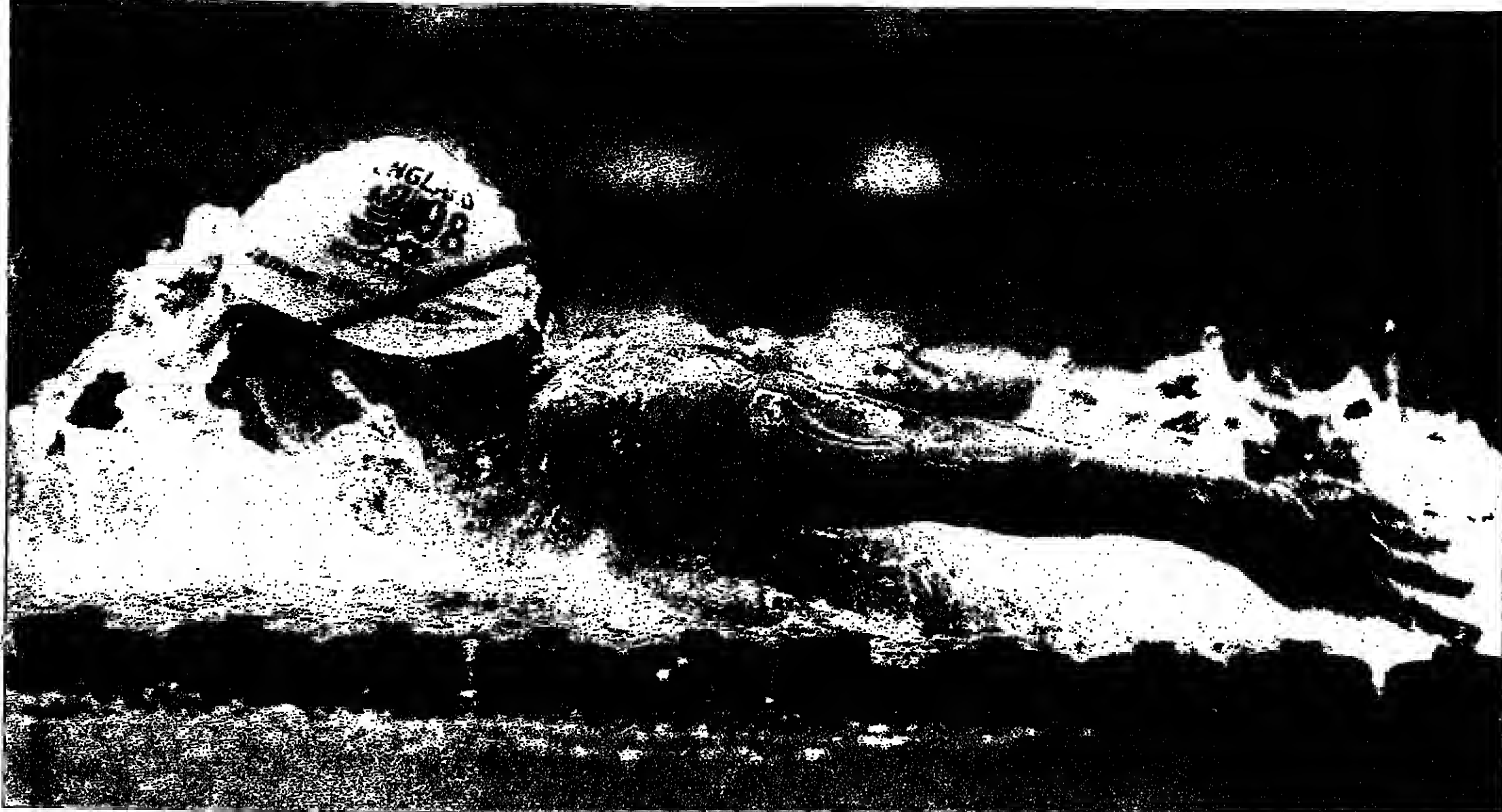
She had never competed in a heptathlon before. She had never taken part in a shot or a high hurdles race. "I didn't start hurdles in training Monday and I fell and scraped my knee," she said. "So I was a bit of a mess."

Today, Blades faces her first 800m - but there was a thought in her mind of falling turn up. "I won't be a winner. I don't come back," she said. "Even if I don't get a medal, I can still be a winner."

Elsewhere on a night when Kenya's Simon Maina took his first track gold with 28m 10.02sec for the 10,000m, Iwa Thomas, Mark Richardson, Solomon Wariso and Jam Baugh proceeded to today's 400m semi-final.

Darren Campbell, Mario Devonish, Dwain Chambers and Wales's Christian Malcolm all reached today's semi-final of a 100m which - with the additional presence of Ato Boldo, Frankie Fredericks and Obadele Thompson - promises to be a highlight of these Games.

"This event gives the whole Commonwealth Games legitimacy," Boldo said. "No one but no one, could dismiss this gold medal as a soft title." Ar you listening, Maurice Greene?



James Hickman surges forward to secure gold in the 200m butterfly on the day England overcame the Australian challenge in the pool, winning another gold and four bronze medals

Allsport

# Hickman and Foster in full flow

IT WAS the day England struck back as their swimming hopes turned to glory at last for James Hickman and Mark Foster. Just as Australia's dominance of the pool appeared to be unrivalled, a sell-out crowd were able to rise to the English anthem for the first time since Saturday. Another four bronzes brought England's medal tally to 17, already four more than they won in Victoria four years ago.

Hickman denied William "The Thorpedo" Kirby his fifth gold with an emphatic win in the 200 metre butterfly. Leading from the front, Hickman was

BY JAMES PARRACK  
in Kuala Lumpur

unchallenged on his way to a Commonwealth record time of 1:57.11, winning by more than two-and-a-half seconds from the Australian.

"I hit them early and I hit them hard," said a breathless Hickman. "It was a tough last 50 to complete but that was the plan. I'll go quicker with better pacing over the first 100."

Struggling off the disappointment of a disqualification for a false start in the 100m, Hickman's victory began a medal

rush. Foster closed on his Commonwealth record to take England's second gold in the 50m sprint. Breathing only twice, Foster used his fit 6m frame to out-reach South Africa's Brendan Dedeckind to successfully defend his title in 22.58sec.

"After carrying the flag at the opening ceremony I thought 'if I can do this, no one will stop me in the pool'," he said. "I had a good start but at about 35m I could see Dedeckind under my arm but I knew if I could touch him out I would win."

Foster articulated England's response to the Australian

hegemony this week. "We have been short of success since Sue Rolph's gold on the first day," he said. "Today our best swimmers are doing our job and it's up to the rest of the team to finish off the meet for us."

Although the gold rush ended there, the medals continued to come. Rolph added two bronze medals to the gold and two silvers she has already won: first, in the 200m individual medley and then anchoring the 4 x 100m medley team. Hoping for three golds, the most Rolph can now win is two, but was philosophical in defeat.

"I felt good to 150m but I'm a sprinter. I still need to work on my endurance to win over 200m," she said.

Sarah Collings was similarly introspective following a relatively disappointing swim. Seeded first into the final of the 800m freestyle the 20-year-old from Bath University was ahead of the field at 50 metres. But just four lengths later, she had dropped to fourth. With a gutsy fight back over the final 200m, Collings secured the bronze in 8:45.46.

"I was inspired by the anthems tonight and I swam a

best time. I can't be disappointed with a bronze medal at my first Commonwealth Games," she said, but clearly she was. "I believed I could go under 8:40. The heats were so easy and yet I only dropped one second for the final. So maybe next time."

Ah, next time. Next time there is no burden of expectation; no inexperience; and always the hope of the perfect swim.

Steve Parry won bronze behind Hickman's gold in the 200m butterfly and is another who will have to wait for next

time. Outwardly happy with the medal, he was inwardly at a loss to explain a time that was more than a second behind his best. Missing silver by 0.06sec added to his frustration.

On an indifferent day for the otherwise all-conquering Australians, Susan O'Neill provided one highlight. In winning her fifth as a member of the victorious 4 x 100m medley relay team, she equalled the biggest gold medal haul at a single Games. Today O'Neill is expected to win one more gold in the 200m butterfly and set Games history.

# Inspiration of blooming Nauru Nicol justifies favouritism

THE ATHLETIC delegation from Kiribati does not appear in the accommodation listing of the Games village. That was because no one in Suva 98, the Malaysian organising committee, was entirely sure whether there was such a place or, if there was, whether anyone was coming from it to compete. Not until the three-man team turned up on the doorstep was the matter clarified and a suitable dormitory set aside.

Yesterday was Kiribati's big day, their first in the Commonwealth Games. The honour of initiation fell to Temwaree Toare, an 18-year-old with spiky hair and a winning smile who competed in the 62kg category of the weightlifting after a mere three-month crash course in the art. Toare has only just left high school and, apart from the Micronesian Games, has barely competed outside his own island. "He was mesmerised training with big teams like the English and the Welsh," Ernest Stephen, the national coach, says. "But this is the Commonwealth Games, only the Olympics is bigger."

For some years now, the islands have been casting around

WEIGHTLIFTING  
BY ANDREW LONGMORE

for a sport which would give them the same status in the region as Nauru, an hour's plane ride to the west. Nauru's 15 minutes of fame came with the weightlifting gold medal won by Marcus Stephen eight years ago in Auckland. The fact that Stephen had been trained in Melbourne was incidental. The

blue flag with the yellow stripe was raised to the top of the mast and everyone went scuttling to consult their atlases. Kiribati is hoping to follow suit. The training programme - the term is used loosely - has now attracted about 30 lifters under the supervision of Ernest Stephen, Marcus's cousin.

"The beauty is that the people of the islands are naturally built to lift weights," Stephen says. "It's no use having a bas-

ketball team if you have no guys who are six feet seven or promoting rugby if you've got no room for pitches. These guys are naturally built for power and weightlifting doesn't take up much room, so it's ideal for us."

Recruitment is simple, if haphazard. "I can be walking along the street and I see a big guy who looks right for lifting and say to him: 'Hey, you should come and lift some weights.' Usually, he runs away."

One of the problems is that Kiribati are a shy people. Another is that there aren't many weights to lift. The one full set in Kiribati was bought second-hand from Australia and is housed in a old shed in the grounds of a disused hospital on South Tarawa, the biggest of the 33 mostly uninhabited islands or atolls. The shed acts as the national training centre. "At least there's no need for a key," Stephen says. "There is no glass in the window, so you can just climb straight in."

Funding is equally insecure. The current government has provided some backing for the programme, but elections this week could mean a shift in power and priorities when the team returns. "We're just hop-

ing we can get the training and the facilities on a more secure footing," says Willy Uan, the head of the Kiribati delegation.

Though the sense of occasion prevented Toare from lifting his personal best yesterday, he was not disgraced in the same company as Yurik Sarkisian, the former world champion from Australia, and Marcus Stephen.

Stephen, the idol of the South Pacific, further enhanced his image by sweeping golds in snatch, clean and jerk and overall. Because of Stephen, Nauru now has a full Olympic class weight-training development programme, attended by Atanaka Bureka, the heavyweight in the Kiribati team, who decided to take up the sport after seeing a picture of Stephen in a textbook.

While David Morgan of Wales will today aim for a record fifth successive Games gold, Eken Karamela, the third of the Kiribati team, will harbour the more modest ambition of survival. "We have to start somewhere," his coach says. "Don't forget, this team has created history by just being here."

PETER NICOL, the hot favourite, landed Scotland's first gold medal of the games yesterday while the gymnasts Annika Reeder and Lisa Mason, and the shooting pair Michael Gault and Nick Baxter, collected three more for England.

Nicol finally disposed of the Canadian Jonathan Power, who had beaten the Scot in their last six meetings. This time, the world No 1 battled his way to victory by 3-9, 9-2, 9-1, 2-9, 9-2.

"This is as good as winning the British Open," he beamed. "It was firstly for me, because I haven't beaten Jonathan for so long. But it was also for Scotland. It's great to get the ball rolling and I'm sure there will be more medals to follow."

There were bronze medals for England's losing semi-finalists Sue Wright and Cassie Jackman in the squash women's singles.

Reeder won gold in the floor event to add to her silver from the women's team event and immediately announced that she has decided to carry on

ROUND-UP

until the Olympic Games in Sydney in two years' time.

"Annika has decided to continue, because she feels that she can still compete at the very top," John McLoughlin, the team manager, said. "Tonight's score was world class."

Reeder shocked the favourites Australia, who confidently expected a 1-2 in the floor discipline, to retain the medal she won four years ago. Mason struck gold in the vault, with Reeder taking the bronze, her third medal of the Games.

England's Andrew Atherton claimed another gymnastics medal when he added a silver in the rings discipline to the same colour he won in the men's individual all-around event. Atherton's team-mate John Smethurst won a bronze in the floor exercise.

Gault and Baxter won their second gold for England in the pairs air pistol final. Chris Hector and Kenneth Parr followed with a bronze in the men's pairs free rifle three positions event.

Ar you listening, Maurice Greene?

## Sharpe's hat-trick blunts Pakistan

BY BILL COLWILL

AND JEAN COLWILL

BEN SHARPE lived up to his name as he scored a brilliant opportunist hat-trick to keep England's men on course for a medal yesterday. A tempestuous match saw Pakistan at one point reduced to eight players as they lost their cool in the steamy Bukit Jalil stadium after having three men sent off in a dramatic second-half.

Two minutes from time the Pakistan goalkeeper, Ahmed Alam, was also dismissed after a furious protest over a penalty corner in which he ripped off his helmet and booted it 30 yards, rugby-style, towards the main stand. His stick followed a similar flight path and, with a substitute keeper in position, Sharpe then popped up to score his third goal just seconds from the end. In the semi-final play-off they now face either Canada or Malaysia.

HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWILL

Tina Cullen, the Hightower striker who missed the World Cup after suffering a fractured jaw in a practice game against Australia, scored four times yesterday as England's women won their final pool game 6-0 against Wales to reach the semi-finals on Saturday.

Although currently leading the pool with 13 points, England might finish in second place should South Africa win their match against New Zealand today. Then they would meet Australia, who will be top of the other pool.

If England finish top, they would face the winner of the match today between India and Scotland.

## COMMONWEALTH GAMES RESULTS

### ATHLETICS

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Uefa Cup: Liverpool look the only certain qualifiers after another tense night for English football

# Villa owe a big debt to Vassell

BY PHIL SHAW

FOR A league which likes to see itself as the best in the world, the FA Cup Premier League endured patchy results in the Uefa Cup's first round, first leg matches. Its Scottish equivalent, forced into ever more anguished European inquests during the 90s, for once enjoyed the better of things.

After a night when the unlikely name of Darius Vassell hogged the headlines following his dramatic introduction at Villa Park, only one of the English quartet appear assured of progress. Liverpool won 3-0 at Kosice of Slovakia with another, more familiar substitute also having an instant impact. Robbie Fowler created a goal with his first touch in competitive action for seven months.

Aston Villa and Leeds United needed late goals - three in Villa's case - to ensure they take an advantage to Norway and Madeira respectively. Blackburn Rovers, by contrast, succumbed to Lyons in the final minutes, yet Rangers earned a draw at a similar stage in Israel and Celtic put internal strife behind them to prevail in Portugal.

Villa, top of the domestic pile, trailed Stromsgodset 2-0 after 32 minutes. If their tactical naivety in the first half did not augur well for a repeat of last season's run to the quarter-finals, their refusal to accept the seemingly inevitable was testament to the spirit fostered by John Gregory's management.

Vassell's goals, 10 seconds from the end of normal time and with the game's last kick, sealed an incredible 2-2 win. The 18-year-old Brummie, associated with Villa since he was 12, used to cheer Dwight Yorke from the Holte End. A week ago he drew comparisons with his hero after his second goal for England's youth team against the Republic of Ireland.

Vassell is one of several young players vying to join Lee



Darius Vassell celebrates after scoring his second goal and Aston Villa's winner against Stromsgodset in the Uefa Cup on Tuesday

Hendrie, 20, and Gareth Barry, 17, in Gregory's starting line-up. Gordon Cowans, once a teenage prodigy himself and now coaching Villa's juniors, said: "After the Bosman ruling, it's vital we bring on our own players. Manchester United are best at it, but we're doing well." Gregory is likely to view the

return as an occasion for experience. Stromsgodset have resisted the temptation to switch the match 30 miles north to the national stadium in Oslo. They believe their best chance is on the cramped pitch at their 7,000-capacity ground in the port of Drammen. However, having snatched defeat from

the jaws of victory, a team who have leaked two and a half goals a game this year may feel they have let their chance slip. Leeds' disappointment at taking only a 1-0 lead was tempered by the satisfaction of denying Maritimo an away goal. Nigel Martyn has been beaten only once in their first

six games, and George Graham will be confident that his team can make progress. The Blackburn manager, Roy Hodgson, was uncharitable in defeat. "I don't think Lyons can honestly say it was a planned 1-0 victory, or the fruit of clever attacking or good defending," the former In-

ternazionale and Switzerland coach complained. Widely touted as a future England manager, Hodgson must find a way to turn dominance into goals if Rovers are not to make another early exit.

After their embarrassment in the European Cup, Celtic achieved arguably the most im-

pressive British win, 2-1 at Victoria Guimarães. Rangers' 1-1 draw in Jerusalem was a moral victory in more ways than one. Their French goalkeeper, Lionel Charbonnier, conceded a penalty for the first time in his career, hinting afterwards that his "victim", one Ofar Shitrit, had lived up to his name by diving.

## Gascoigne victim of muddled thinking

PAUL GASCOIGNE may be hailed in some quarters as a footballing genius, but public perception of his powers of rational thought are less than flattering according to a survey which rates the Middlesbrough and former England midfielder as Britain's least intelligent person.

The often troubled player polled 31 per cent and topped the list ahead of the model Melinda Messenger, who pulled 10 per cent of the votes. Anthea Turner, the former Lottery presenter, came third with eight per cent, closely followed by the Democratic Unionist Party leader Ian Paisley and the former Spice Girl Geri Halliwell.

The same research revealed the Virgin tycoon Richard Branson is seen as the country's most intelligent person, securing a 20 per cent backing and pipping the author Stephen Hawking into second place by one per cent.

Carol Vorderman, the numerate television presenter, finished third on 17 per cent, ahead of the wildlife expert David Attenborough and inventor Clive Sinclair.

The 1,004 people questioned for the survey for the scientific magazine *Focus* were also asked who they thought was the most intelligent politician in Britain.

Prime Minister Tony Blair topped the poll with 25 per cent of the votes, with Margaret Thatcher following in second place with 23 per cent.

The Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown came third with five per cent, one per cent ahead of the Chancellor Gordon Brown and former Prime Minister John Major, who share fourth place.

As for sporting figures, the former Pakistan captain Imran Khan heads the list with 17 per cent of the poll, with the ex-England striker and television presenter Gary Lineker two per cent behind.

**FOCUS MAGAZINE POLL:** Five least intelligent personalities in Britain (figures in per cent): 1 Paul Gascoigne 31; 2 Melinda Messenger 10; 3 Anthea Turner 8; 4 Ian Paisley 7; 5 Geri Halliwell 6. Top five most intelligent sportswomen: 1 Imran Khan 17; 2 Gary Lineker 15; 3 Glenn Hoddge 9; 4 Roger Black 7; 5 Michael Akeroy 6.

## Chelsea's rota system frustrates Laudrup

BRIAN LAUDRUP yesterday highlighted the frustrations of Chelsea's squad rotation system, 24 hours before the opening game in their defence of the European Cup-Winners' Cup.

The Danish international this season, and only came on as an 89th-minute substitute during the 2-1 win over Nottingham Forest on Saturday. After only five weeks at the club, Laudrup, signed on a free transfer from Rangers this summer, has made his feelings known to the player-manager, Gianluca Vialli.

Vialli has the task of keeping Gianfranco Zola, Pierluigi Casiraghi, Tore Andre Flo, himself and Laudrup happy while telling them nobody's place in the starting line-up is secure. It is a problem that Vialli was

BY PHIL CASEY

on the receiving end of himself when Rudi Gullit was coach.

"I have been to a meeting with Vialli and the other forwards at the club," Laudrup said as Chelsea prepared to entertain the Swedish side, Helsingborg, tonight. "Vialli said that he regards us all as stars and that we actually each of us should play every single time, but he would not give any guarantees to any of us."

"His message was that none of us can feel secure of a spot in the starting line-up and of course that's a new situation for me that I have to get used to."

"I didn't like the same system at Milan, and the big danger is that some players might never find the right rhythm."

Indeed, Chelsea have so far

failed to find the rhythm that took them to two cup triumphs last year. Laudrup puts that down to a lack of playing time for the team to get together and is desperate to get as much match practice as possible to prove his worth.

"I need all the playing time that I can possibly get right now because it was a big problem in my league debut that my teammates didn't know me and I didn't know them," he said.

"I was criticised for my debut but please notice I played in a strange role in right midfield which is not my favourite space at all."

"I think that Vialli has already seen that the best space for me is as the free runner behind the forwards like I played for Rangers and Denmark."

"Physically I am fit but I lack

a bit in timing and only playing big matches will help me now."

Vialli has an almost full squad to choose from, with only Dan Petrescu missing through suspension. The captain, Dennis Wise, is available again after his three-match ban following his dismissal against Atletico Madrid in a pre-season tournament.

Though Chelsea should have little problem squeezing past the Swedish part-timers, they have been taking no chances for tonight's first leg, spending Tuesday after training studying videos of the Swedish side.

"When you don't know one player from the other team you have to be careful," Marcel Desailly, another of Chelsea's foreign summer signings, said yesterday. "Sometimes they have surprises."

## Jones moans about slackers

DAVE JONES, the manager of Southampton, has told his experienced players "you've let me down" in the club's terrible start to the season.

Southampton were one of the most improved sides in the league last year and finished a creditable 12th in the Premiership table, but they are now bottom of the Premiership after five successive defeats, including a 5-0 thrashing by Charlton.

It took the substitute James Beattie to score his first goal for the club to salvage a draw against Fulham, of the Second

Division, in the Worthington Cup second-round, first-leg at Craven Cottage on Tuesday.

Jones was grateful just not to lose for the first time this season but blamed the club's senior professionals for a run of results that has seen his side become relegation favourites.

"We have some good young players here, but it's my experienced ones who are not performing at the minute," Jones said. "My chairman gives me his full backing as do the board, and I just want the backing of the players because I'll give them everything I can."

"Confidence has been dented, and I feel like I've been kicked from pillar to post. When expectations are high, like they were after last year, you're wondering why it's gone wrong. It's only the players that can pull themselves out of it."

"No game is ever going to be easy now. It's hard to keep battling, but that's what we have to do. The players are as baffled as everyone else why it's gone wrong."

Jones did not name names on Tuesday, but it was clear which players he thinks have not delivered so far this season.

Against Fulham, Mark Hughes barely touched the ball; Egil Olsenstad and David Howells both limped off; and Stuart Ripley was ineffective apart from the pass that led to Beattie's equaliser.

Matt Le Tissier, making only his second start of the season, was also anonymous and, as Jones admitted, still looks unfit. "He did okay in spells but as I've said all along he isn't fully fit. He has had a traumatic 12 months as everybody knows and he just has to keep working at it like everybody else," the manager explained.

## Vega bites at Pleat's decision

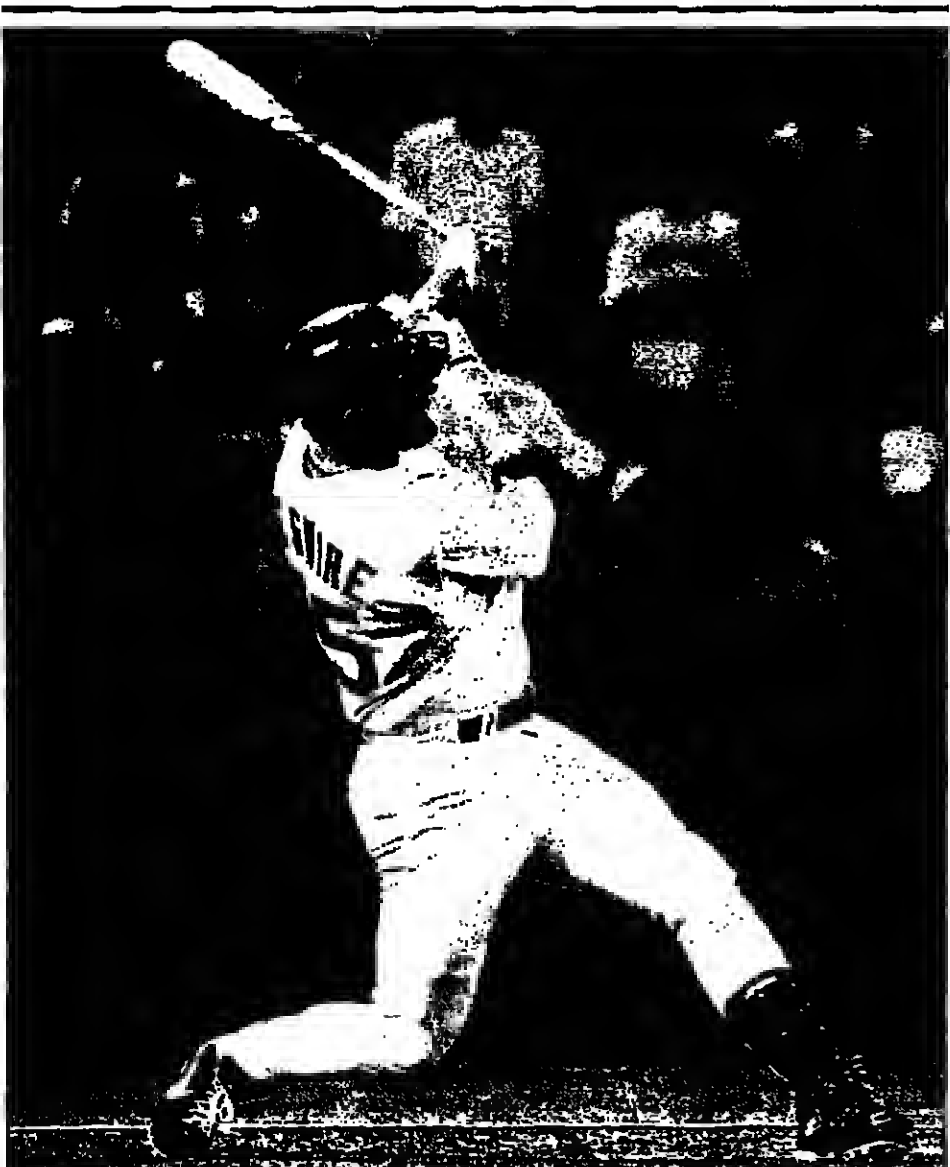
RAMON VEGA hit out at David Pleat, Tottenham's caretaker-manager, after scoring the winning goal in Spurs' Worthington Cup second round first leg game at Brentford on Tuesday.

Vega insisted that Pleat was wrong to drop him from the team which lost to Middlesbrough on Sunday. The much-maligned Swiss international defender spared Spurs' blushes with a powerful header for their third goal at Griffin Park, before denouncing Pleat.

"Getting the winner here was the perfect reply to me being dropped," Vega said. "The manager was wrong to leave me out of the last game and this was my way of telling him. Now I am determined to fight on and win over the fans."

Vega has had a torrid time at White Hart Lane so far this season. He was the victim of the boo-boys in the club's opening home game of the season, which they lost to Sheffield Wednesday, and has also been accused of receiving preferential treatment from his fellow countryman Christian Gross, the club's last manager.

"I have had a lot of stick but I have had to face it. We all make mistakes but mine have been highlighted because I am a defender," Vega said. "As for people saying I was privileged, my relationship with Christian was nothing special. I don't see why people make this connection just because we are both Swiss. Does it mean English managers favour English players? Of course not."



Mark McGwire hits home run No 63 in St Louis on Tuesday

## McGwire moves one up on Sosa

MARK MCGWIRE, the St Louis Cardinals slugger, hit his 63rd home run of the season on Tuesday night, extending the all-time record and pulling one ahead of Chicago Cubs' Sammy Sosa.

McGwire hit a solo home run to left-centre field off Jason

### BASEBALL

Christianson, the Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher, with one out in the ninth innings. Pittsburgh won 8-6 in the opening game of a double-header.

McGwire, who broke Roger

Maris's 37-year-old record of 61 a week ago, hit the pitch 385 feet.

"People cheer 'come on Mark, we want you to hit one.' Boom, he hits it," said Tony La Russa, the Cardinals manager. "How he does it, I have no idea. He is just remarkable."

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## SPORT

FOSTER'S GOLD MEDAL DAY P23 • JACK'S LADS IN TITLE SHOWDOWN P22

## Shearer: 'I'm staying at Newcastle'

ALAN SHEARER has reaffirmed his future with Newcastle United after talks with his manager, Ruud Gullit.

Aston Villa had been linked with a move for the England captain after Gullit said he would be prepared to leave him out of the side if it suited either the club or the player. The Independent Newcastle United Supporters' Association pleaded for Shearer to make it clear he was staying at St James' Park.

"If I comment on speculation every time it is written, I would be in the press all the time and I would rather concentrate on preparing for my football," Shearer said. "However, because the fans have specifically asked, I can say that I've spoken with the chairman (Freddie Shepherd) and the manager and they have told me that they see me as an important part of Newcastle's future."

"The manager feels that my strength is scoring goals but he realises that I am the type of striker who needs service. I have no doubt that the manager came here to win things, just as I did."

Gullit was delighted by

FOOTBALL  
BY ALAN NIXON

Shearer's comments, but as far as the Dutchman was concerned the matter had been dealt with at the weekend when he publicly backed the striker. Gullit said: "It was already at an end when I said it last Saturday but I have the feeling people were thinking on behalf of me or something like that."

He added: "He was happy before the [Southampton] game and his attitude could be seen out on the pitch. So that didn't change even when there was certain speculation."

Gullit said he believed tonight's European Cup-Winners' Cup first round, first leg against Partizan Belgrade was less important than the club's league position. "I will give more priority to the Premier League because there are still going to be some changes," he said.

Gullit will still be without David Baty, his England international midfielder, who played only his first game since the World Cup in a midweek friendly against York.

John Spencer, Howard

Kendall's last buy, is ready to leave Everton because he feels he was insulted by the chairman, Peter Johnson. The Scottish striker is furious at Johnson's statements about him and other signings in a controversial club EGM speech.

Spencer led the protests to the manager, Walter Smith, after an angry players' meeting before the Huddersfield match on Tuesday. The former Queen's Park Rangers striker is unhappy about playing for Johnson's club and was left off the bench for the match.

At the EGM, Johnson said: "Just before Howard left he paid out £1.6m on John Spencer. Doesn't that say it all?"

Other Kendall signings are also upset and want to know about their futures. However, Gareth Farrelly and Carl Tyler are already available for sale.

Sheffield United's chairman, Mike McDonald, is considering a possible takeover that could see him leave the Bramall Lane club. McDonald is looking at offers from three consortiums after rejecting a bid from a director, Kevin McCabe.

More football, pages 26 and 27



Oscar de la Hoya, the World Boxing Association welterweight champion, faces the press during the build-up to tomorrow's fight against the challenger, Julio Cesar Chavez, in Las Vegas. Reuters

## Chavez vows to be 'warrior'

JULIO CESAR Chavez is confident that his rematch with Oscar De La Hoya can go only one way. "This time you're going to see the warrior Chavez," he said yesterday. "I'm going to break up Oscar with punches."

Two years after he was soundly beaten by De La Hoya, Chavez gets another shot at the welterweight champion in Las Vegas tomorrow in what, at the age of 36, is likely to be his last major fight.

He hasn't done much to earn a rematch, except to irritate De La Hoya to the point where he wants to fight him again. But Chavez is still confident despite the beating and the ravages of more than 100 fights over an 18-year career.

Chavez and De La Hoya will both be fighting for some re-

BOXING  
BY TIM DAHLBERG

spect when they meet in the scheduled 12-round bout for De La Hoya's WBC welterweight title. "If it was up to me, this one wouldn't even be in the record books," De La Hoya said. "I'm fighting for the respect he didn't show me the first time. That's how personal this one is. A fighter like him will never admit he lost. The only way for me to get him to admit defeat is a devastating knockout."

In their first fight, De La Hoya sliced open Chavez's face, then beat him to a pulp until the fight was stopped in the fourth round. Chavez claimed afterwards that he sustained a cut over his eye while playing with

his young son the week before and that he would have never lost if the cut had not reopened.

Paul Ingle is set to become the latest British boxer to attempt to capture the hearts of American fight fans. Following Naseem Hamed's Madison Square Garden debut last December, Joe Calzaghe is due to make his US bow before the end of the year.

And now Frank Maloney, Ingle's promoter, has two December dates in mind for Ingle's move across the Atlantic - as part of a prospective bill headed by Lennox Lewis.

Ingle must first be successful in his challenge for Billy Hardy's European featherweight title at the Barbican Centre, York, on 26 September. Maloney has big plans for

Ingle, but he remains cautious about unveiling them as he sees Hardy as a big enough challenge not to take things for granted.

"We were making big plans for Patrick Mullings before his fight in Scarborough in August, and he lost," Maloney said.

"The one thing I don't do is dismiss Billy Hardy. He's been in the lion's den a number of times and people keep writing him off, but he comes back."

Hardy revels in his underdog role. "I'd love to be written off, but it never happens," he said. "I'm sure there is a lucrative deal out there for me as well. All this talk has made me more determined. It's going to be a hard fight and whoever forsakes all the pain and digs the deepest will come out ahead."

The superb York bill also includes the British bantamweight clash between Drew Docherty and Paul Lloyd, plus Crawford Ashley's European light-heavyweight title bout with French-based Joe Silivangi.

Another barrier in the way of Ingle's appearance on a Lennox Lewis undercard is Zeljko Mavriovic. Lewis defends his WBC heavyweight title against the Croat in Connecticut on the same night.

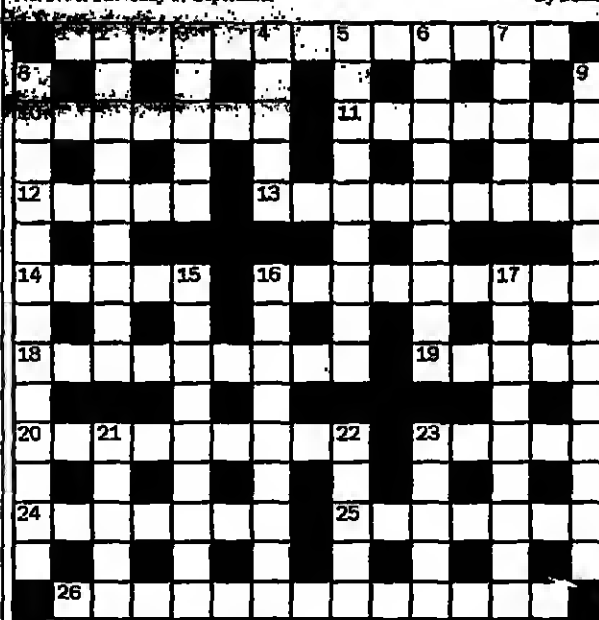
Maloney warned: "He (Mavriovic) is a much better fighter than Shannon Briggs (Lewis's last opponent) and he is very underestimated."

"Lennox was distracted last time, but he's been superb in training and he will never fight like that again."

## THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No. 2718, Thursday 17 September

By Moss



Wednesday's solution

ACROSS  
1. A boundary characteristic of the Oval (13)  
10. A Drunk reeling a bit? (7)  
11. Captain's love for Northern fishy food (7)  
12. Suggested action: half million should be returned (5)  
13. Service satisfied, including a garnish (9)  
14. LECTURED about Liberal issue (5)  
16. It's the custom for right back to face a wing, they say (9)  
18. Lack of interest in a European firm (9)  
19. Strains whole back on short slippery surface (5)

DOWN  
2. One short of nap, at least (9)  
3. Got along quietly in school (5)  
4. Figure little girl should get over revolting outburst? (5)  
5. Show people around harbour (9)

6. A basket, say? (9)  
7. Plant bay round lake (5)  
8. Stops turn aches with treatment - or these (7,6)  
9. In line? (7-6)  
15. Musicians with a Prom engagement, perhaps (5-4)  
16. Routine work study male's introduced (9)  
17. Cutting off, snubbing one, is offensive (9)  
21. Chappie's leading academic a dance (5)  
22. Beast's tick-infested burrow (5)  
23. Risk in poker initially raising the money (5)

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09/09/98



## THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



## God's own spin doctor

If you came across Nicky Gumbel in his native Knightsbridge, you'd hardly notice him. He's a neatly dressed, nicely groomed, politely spoken 43-year-old, good-looking in a boyish way but otherwise an unremarkable product of the upper-class mould. You certainly wouldn't suspect that he was in any way out of the ordinary.

Yet this is a man who numbers his admirers in hundreds of thousands. If they're to be believed, he's one of the most extraordinary men of his age – a latter-day John Wesley, at the very least. He's certainly extraordinary in his ambition: he's aiming to do for the Church of England what Peter Mandelson did for the Labour Party – drag it into the modern world and, through sheer force of presentational skill, restore it to its former power and glory. More extraordinary still, he's showing signs of success.

You've probably seen some of the signs: a £1m advertising campaign, unleashed this week, drawing our attention to something called the Alpha Programme. If that doesn't mean much to you, don't worry: by the end of this week, around one million households should have received invitations to go on the Alpha Course, a 15-session, 10-week introduction to the basics of Christianity. Ultimately, it is planned that everyone in Britain should be invited. Already, the number of people who have done the course is thought to have passed 1.5 million, more than half of them in Britain. In a country where the average Sunday sees scarcely one million people attend Church of England services, that's a significant figure. Six thousand of Britain's 24,000-odd Christian churches (of all denominations) are active participants in the Alpha programme; 4,000 are involved in local fundraising efforts; the current campaign; and the Archbishop of Canterbury has "wholeheartedly" commended it. None of which may be enough to turn Britain back into a Christian nation, but it's not a bad start.

The man behind this revolution, you might think, must be a spiritual tiger, a roaring prophet in the cast of Ian Paisley. Yet Gumbel, as befits a man of God in the New Labour age, is an altogether svelter creature, as smooth-edged as a breakfast television presenter. His background is inoffensive, to the point of blandness. The son of two atheist lawyers, he grew up in the parish of Holy Trinity Brompton – Britain's richest parish church, and, in the religious sense, one of its most charismatic. He has spent most of his life in the area, one of his longest sojourns beyond it being his time at Eton,

where his hobbies included trying to persuade Christian pupils that their faith was absurd. At Cambridge, he read economics and law, had five close friends called Nicky, and was drawn to Christianity for the first time in a fairly undramatic way ("Some of my friends were getting interested, and I just started reading the New Testament and couldn't put it down"). He then returned to Knightsbridge, spent six years as a barrister, married – he now has three teenage children – and became an increasingly active member of the congregation at Holy Trinity Brompton. "I don't think," he says politely, "that there can be many people out there who could tell you that I did awful things in my youth."

In 1983, partly as a result of an encounter with an American evangelist who told him that he had "a gift for telling people about Jesus", he gave up his career at the Bar to train for the priesthood – "to the horror of my parents". His first job after his ordination, in 1986, was as curate of Holy Trinity Brompton, which by this time was acquiring a national reputation for its rather un-British approach to evangelism. Some eight years earlier, one of Gumbel's predecessors, Charles Marnham, had developed a series of talks designed to bolster the faith of existing church-goers – the Alpha programme. These talks were given in conjunction with informal meals and small discussion groups, with the option of a weekend away at the end of the programme; those who went through the course might in due course help to administer it themselves. By 1990, a few hundred committed Christians had tried Alpha. Then Gumbel was put in charge.

Gumbel realised that the real potential of such a programme was as a way of recruiting non-church-goers, and he re-thought, re-wrote and re-packaged it with this in mind. Everything was made more "non-church-goer-friendly" and "non-threatening"; jargon was replaced by jokes, piety by human warmth; reactions to the talks were monitored by questionnaires and modified accordingly (shades of the focus group); and public interest in the course "simply exploded". Churches all over Britain – and, eventually, the world – began to ask for details, and, in due course, the revised material was committed to books, audiotapes and videos, written by and starring Gumbel, with lots of "study guides" and "manuals" to back them up. Today, Nicky Gumbel governs the Alpha empire from an office block adjoining Holy Trinity Brompton, employing around 100 people in an operation that spends nearly £750,000 a year, which comes out of Holy Trinity Brompton's astonishing annual income from

An opportunity  
to explore  
the meaning of life.

BY RICHARD  
ASKWITH

This week, the Alpha  
Programme began its  
big-budget rebrand of  
a world-famous but  
sadly diminished  
product. Its name?  
Christianity. And  
behind the relaunch?

Nicky Gumbel,  
the Church of  
England's answer to  
Peter Mandelson

donations and investments of £2.3m – on materials alone. (The cost of actually running the programmes is usually met by voluntary donations from participants.) Gumbel also puts on up to 50 conferences a year around the world for churches that want to learn how to use the Alpha programme.

According to Sandy Millar, vicar of Holy Trinity Brompton (and another Old Etonian ex-barrister), Gumbel's Alpha has provided overworked, uninspired vicars with an alternative to their usual response to non-believers who express curiosity about Christianity: "which is simply to say come along on Sunday – often with disastrous results." A pre-prepared programme of tried and tested talks on fundamental matters of faith ensures that thousands of churches remain smoothly on message, while modern media and marketing methods ensure that the programme can be disseminated with breathtaking efficiency. (Check out the countless Alpha websites on the Internet.) Gumbel may not get time to perform more than the occasional wedding or funeral in his capacity as curate, yet he's running an ideological machine of stunning power. In a sense, he's God's minister without portfolio.

A non-smoking, near-teetotal keep-fit enthusiast who spends most of his waking hours working – "although I don't really think of it as work" – Gumbel is tall and dark, performs well on video, and seems to be adored by many female Alpha enthusiasts. But he owes his impact less to any unique vision or cast of character than to the fact that, like Mandelson, he has faced up to and focused on problems that needed solving – most notably the fact that non-believers tend to see the church as boring and irrelevant – and worked on them with unremitting energy and thoroughness. "Nicky's legal background is very helpful," says Millar, "in enabling him to isolate the key issues and to attempt to deal with them in a way that people can understand." It may be no accident that one of Gumbel's most prominent colleagues – who has just taken over Alpha's New York office – is Alistair Hanna, a former director of McKinsey's, the management consultants. Nor are the comparisons with Mandelson entirely fanciful. "I think," says Gumbel, "that one should try and learn as much as possible from areas of life outside the church. I would look at any political party and say: 'what can we learn from what they're doing?'"

Yet it would be mean to push the similarities with the Prince of Darkness too far, for only because the Devil is, in a real sense, one of Gumbel's *bêtes noires*. "There are very good reasons to believe in his existence," he says in *Questions of Life*,

the bestselling book based on his Alpha talks. "Any kind of theology which ignores the existence of a personal devil has a great deal to explain." He takes an equally fundamentalist line in other areas. "Does God Still Heal?" is the title of one of the Alpha talks; the answer is a literal and unambiguous yes. Alpha thoroughly disapproves of divorce, abortion, homosexuality and sex outside marriage. As for the direct workings of the Holy Spirit: "The gift of tongues has brought great blessing to many people."

This is the controversial side of Alpha. In 1994, Gumbel was associated with the arrival in Britain, via Holy Trinity Brompton, the phenomenon widely known as the Toronto Blessing (although Gumbel prefers to call it "The present movement of the Spirit that began at Toronto Airport Vineyard church in January 1994"). The "blessing" involves mass outbreaks of speaking in tongues, sometimes in conjunction with fainting and being "slain in the spirit". For enthusiasts, it can easily become the most important aspect of their faith. Critics of the Alpha programme have claimed that subscribing to Alpha means buying into the whole charismatic Toronto package. In fact, direct references to the phenomenon have now been removed from Alpha (most of whose material was written before 1994). But in practice, there's often a fair bit of speaking with tongues at the programme's climactic weekend session.

What is beyond doubt is that Gumbel, Holy Trinity Brompton and Alpha all stand for a charismatic version of Christianity that would go down in many Anglican churches like guacamole at a Rotherham working men's club. There may be little scriptural or theological justification for the Anglican church's traditionally half-hearted approach to matters of literal and supernatural belief. None the less, that's how hundreds of thousands of old-fashioned Anglicans like it. "The Church is like... a feast and a celebration," says Gumbel in one Alpha talk, "and at a party everyone has a good time. There's fun, there's laughter... Paul says, 'don't get drunk with wine, be filled with the Spirit. Come to a party where you can get drunk on God'. I was at a party like that last night... It was a party thrown by the Holy Spirit. It was a fun place to be." You can just feel the Church Fete Committee winning.

But Gumbel seems set to have the last laugh. For much of the 1990s, the Church of England has been losing members at a rate of 1,000 a week. If he has the secret of putting bums back on pews – as his detractors most certainly have not – then tomorrow's C of E may well belong to him. This week's campaign could be a flavour of the church to come.

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EDUCATION



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

## Ban on Viagra

Sir: I find it difficult to understand on what basis Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, has banned the use of Viagra on the NHS. Many treatments (probably the majority) within the Health Service are not life-saving or for serious illness but instead are for the improvement of the patient's quality of life. Many of these treatments, like Viagra, are not cheap.

If the NHS and Department of Health have decided to limit effective and available treatments, presumably on financial grounds, then this issue should be the subject of debate within Parliament, the medical profession and the public at large. I believe this to be the first time in the history of the NHS that a Health Secretary has acted in such a totalitarian manner.

This issue has left the medical profession, specialists and GPs alike, in an untenable position. Never before have deserving patients been asked to have an NHS consultation but then been told that for the best treatment in their case they will have to pay per tablet. The belief that doctors may prescribe Viagra as a recreational drug is totally ridiculous. Do we write prescriptions for heroin just because the patient asks for it?

The Government saw this issue coming but chose to ignore it. It is the medical profession and patients that will suffer from their inept and tardy attitude.

RICHARD PEARCY FRCS  
Bristol

Sir: Since alcohol ingestion is the biggest single reason for impotence and since it is a recreational drug, why not sell Viagra over the counter in public bars as a recreational antidote.  
HUGH E C GORMLIE  
Barhead,  
Strathclyde

Sir: Impotence is grounds for divorce. The cost of divorce to the Exchequer greatly exceeds the possible cost of Viagra.  
EUGEN HOCKENJOS  
London N1

## Defending jobs

Sir: Donald Macintyre writes of "Roger Lyons' tendency to blame British interest rates for every factory closure in the North-east" (Comment, 15 September).

I am on record as accepting the debilitating effects of the Asian meltdown and the Russian crisis on British manufacturing industry. Of course it is true that an industry that relies so heavily on exports will be affected by world crises.

However a reduction of interest rates will help investment, profits and exports. It is still the role of government to help the creators of wealth, even in a global economy, by controlling those economic levers it has access to.

I congratulate the Monetary Policy Committee and the Government on hitting their inflation target and hope that action is now taken to make it as easy as possible to compete in the global market by cutting interest rates. It may not solve the Asian crisis but it may help our manufacturing industry survive it.  
ROGER LYONS  
General Secretary  
MSF  
London EC1

## Coronary puzzle

Sir: Jeremy Laurence interprets the World Health Organisation Monica study as showing tobacco and cholesterol to be "irrelevant" as risk factors for coronary heart disease ("Doctor, doctor - can I have a fag and a chip butty now?", 15 September). He then takes the British Heart Foundation to task for continuing to believe that they are indeed important and modifiable risk factors.

Every study that has observed the health of individuals over many years has confirmed the importance of cigarette smoking, blood pressure and blood



Apples and Pears 4: an apple picker contemplates taking cover as another rainstorm rolls across the North Downs

Tom Pileston

cholesterol in the development of coronary heart disease. In addition, during the last five years, several studies have clearly demonstrated that lowering blood cholesterol levels among high-risk patients reduces both death and disability from coronary heart disease.

In studies like Monica, which look at different populations through a series of snapshots over time, other factors may be at work. Jeremy Laurence raises the issue of low-grade infection as a cause of coronary heart disease. There is currently much interest in this topic but its role as a risk factor remains unproven. As he acknowledges, we believe it possible that increasing affluence in society may explain some of the decline in death from coronary disease. Whether that is due to the availability of new and expensive treatment or the ability to afford a healthier diet and more physical recreation we do not know. There is however no doubt that death from coronary artery disease is falling most rapidly in the wealthier sections of society.

We do not believe that the cause of coronary heart disease is cut and dried and have never suggested that it is completely avoidable. There is however much we can do as individuals to reduce risk and the British Heart Foundation will continue to promote this message. Professor B L PENTECOST  
Medical Director  
British Heart Foundation  
London W1

Sir: Jeremy Laurence is delighted at expert puzzlement over results of the World Health Organisation Monica Project, but Monica researchers would not agree that "there was no link - no link at all" between trends in standard risk factors of smoking, blood pressure and cholesterol and trends in heart disease, and that the results are "astonishing".

It is true that there is not a strong relationship, but most trends are down. This creates a statistical problem in estimating how great or how small is the contribution of known risk factors, and therefore how much room is left for other animals in the jungle.

At Monica's launch standard risk factors were known to predict individual risk within populations, but the absolute levels of risk varied between populations more than known risk factors could explain. The project asked how well trends over time in these population levels were explained by changes in standard risk factors. The answer - "not very well" - was more negative than many expected, but had we known the answer beforehand we would not have mounted the project!

Health promotion is about what is known. Many diseases of unknown causation have been controlled by entirely empirical means (eg Jenner and vaccination

against smallpox). Prevention is not all-or-nothing. It is the major risk factors which determine whether a chronic disease is common or rare and whether it occurs in young or only elderly people.

Research is about what is not known. Only a fool would use the latter as an argument for complete inaction, for disregarding or going against reasonable advice. Jeremy Laurence's reaction is akin to someone who uses the news that a good driver has been killed in a car accident to justify and encourage bad driving. The Monica findings are certainly a challenge for researchers as to what exactly is going on at a population level but do not change the advice to individuals as to how they might modify their personal risk.

HUGH TUNSTALL-PEDOE  
Rapporteur WHO Monica Project  
Cardiovascular Epidemiology Unit  
University of Dundee

## IN BRIEF

September) should stop worrying about Christmas decorations being on sale in September, and Christmas dinners being advertised in July. Instead they should visit Sainsbury's, which is much more forward-looking. Seven months before Good Friday, this supermarket chain is selling hot cross buns.

MICHAEL GREGORY  
Iver,  
Buckinghamshire

Sir: Naturally we are delighted that Susan Tritton's friends in Thailand find the BBC superior to the competition (letter, 15 September). They will be pleased to know that BBC World, the BBC's 24-hour

## The uses of science

Sir: Sir Richard Sykes ("Science must allay the public's fears", Podium, 14 September) displays exactly the limited perspective on scientific development which creates public fear. In misrepresenting the debate as one between those who are for and against science, he misses the point, which is whether science is put to good use or bad.

Greenpeace strongly supports the application of science and new technology to amend environmental problems, such as our initiatives to create markets for ozone- and climate-friendly fridges, PVC-free credit cards and renewable energy sources. We oppose misapplication of science which leads to uncontrollable environmental risks such as those posed by nuclear power and release of genetically engineered organisms, or continued investment in fossil fuel extraction technologies when we cannot

safely burn the fossil fuels we have already.

If Sir Richard wishes to allay fears he should acknowledge the real dilemmas, not pretend that all those who question the had applications of science have "a lack of real understanding" or see all "scientific advances as heralding Armageddon". In a recent poll across the whole of Europe, increased knowledge about genetic engineering led to no greater acceptance. "Real understanding" will not necessarily remove public concerns, because members of the public frequently bring different values to bear.

DR IAN E TAYLOR  
Scientific Political Adviser  
Greenpeace UK  
London N1

## After the Fringe

Sir: There is no evidence that audiences for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival have "dwindled" (report, 8 September). The Pleasance "notched up a record audience" of 150,000 this year (an increase of 17 per cent) and the Gilded Balloon are up by 25 per cent. Together we sell more than a quarter of all Fringe tickets and considerably more than either the Tattoo or the International Festival.

Over two thirds of the Fringe audience (and performers) are aged between 15 and 35 and a good many of them need to be home by the beginning of September. When the last week is in September it is always a gloomy time. Of course it is better if all six August festivals in Edinburgh run concurrently.

I'm sorry that some people did less well this year, but there may be other reasons for that. The numbers are a bit like my stomach. If I breathe in I look thinner, but sadly it is merely a temporary redistribution of bulk.  
CHRISTOPHER RICHARDSON  
Director  
Pleasance Theatre Festival Ltd  
London, N1

international news and information television channel, is currently available in Thailand to over 115,000 homes via the Pan Am Sat II satellite.  
JANIE IRONSIDE WOOD  
Director of Communications  
BBC Worldwide  
London W12

Sir: Keiko the killer whale is airlifted to his new home in Iceland as the Government announces its competition for tenants on problem estates to secure extra funding. Keiko is removed from his cramped, unpleasant conditions in order to avoid having to do cheap tricks, whilst the inhabitants of inner-city London, Liverpool and Manchester have to jump through hoops to escape theirs.  
JOHN GALE  
Manchester

## Art, or just pots?

Sir: Henry Rothschild has alerted us to the risk that Janet Leach's unique and important collection of Bernard Leach's work and documents are in danger of being lost to the nation (letter, 15 September).

If Leach had worked in any other medium than ceramics the work of this major 20th-century artist would be in the Tate Gallery. As it is, the Tate continues to maintain that ceramics are craft and not art. In the Tate St Ives, work by Leach is on show, but it is work loaned from the Wingfield Digby Collection, because the Tate does not choose to own ceramics.

At the same time that your columnist David Lister is pressuring Nicholas Serota, the Tate's director, to define modern art (Comment, 16 September), you might also ask him to say why Leach is not an artist. A wider definition might mean that the Janet Leach collection could be bought by the Tate. But Serota needs to think quickly.  
The Rev T M RUSS  
St Dennis,  
Cornwall

## Dangers on the Net

Sir: Mark Pawelek (letter, 11 September) wrongly describes me as a "censor". I am not.

The Internet Watch Foundation does play a part in getting material which is plainly illegal removed from UK servers, but surely Mr Pawelek has no objection to that? I do also favour giving parents, teachers, employers and children themselves, the knowledge and the power to determine what sort of material might come into their home, office or classroom. That does not make me "pro-censorship". It makes me "pro-choice". You will never stop people publishing whatever they like on the Internet, but you ought to be able to intervene to protect yourself and your loved ones from unwanted intrusions. The sorts of tools we have at our disposal now to do this are woefully inadequate and IWF is working to improve them.

Mr Pawelek tells us there are only a "few idiots" who abuse the system. I wonder if Mr Pawelek would feel quite so charitable towards the "idiots" if one of his children became the victim of a paedophile whom he or she first met on the Internet.  
JOHN CARR  
London N19

## A night in jail

Sir: Governor O'Sullivan's initiative ("A night in Brixton jail - yours for £50", 14th September) is laudable, and his project will doubtless appeal to the curiosity of the law-abiding and raise much-needed funds for the Macmillan cause. Two matters are however of pressing interest.

Why, if refurbishment of the A wing cells is complete, are they not to be used straight away for prisoner occupation? Over the summer, pressure on cell accommodation in London has been so great that prisoners are being moved outside the Metropolitan area almost every day. The 200 spaces in A wing are sorely needed to relieve pressure on the other London prisons.

Secondly, this "unique event" will doubtless require a substantial project to restore the security status of the cells after their overnight paying guests have left - who knows what parting gifts might otherwise have been left for the official occupants? How are the extra staff, sniffer dogs, cleaning and security searches to be financed?

This public relations exercise should not be allowed to divert attention from the very real problems of prisoner numbers and their welfare, and they should come before even the most worthy of charities.  
JENIFER BALL  
Chairman, Greater London Lay Observers' Panel  
London SW12

## Fjord squad holds Villa at home, though they run and run

WELL, IT'S been an action-packed, rip-roaring couple of nights in European football (writes our football correspondent, Rene McGrath). British clubs were in non-stop action on both evenings in what turned out to be an action-packed, rip-roaring couple of nights, no, I've used that one already, in what turned out to be a dramatic topsy-turvy couple of nights of star-studded, breathtaking European football!

And Britain can walk tall today after their first encounters with the might of the mainland. Majestic M1 Wanderers, the pride of the Midlands, were at their magisterial best in the San Siro stadium in Italy, playing their first leg against AC/DC Milan in the Champion of Champions Pay To View Cup, and coming away with a very creditable 2-1 loss.

"This may not have been the result we came for," said manager Ally Barber last night, "but it's certainly the result we are going away with, and you can't say fairer than that. We scored an away goal on the night. They didn't. That makes things very difficult for them in the second leg. It makes things very difficult for us too. More difficult for us, probably. A lot more. Well, that's football. But take nothing away from our lads. They ran and ran and ran and ran, and occasionally kicked the ball too. You can't say more than that. They were magnificent. Take nothing away from these lads. I won't. That will be £400, please."

Meanwhile, on home ground, Villa Park were doing even better at their London base, where they entertained the crack Norwegian

team FC Anorak to a cliffhanger 3-3 draw.

"What can you say? Both teams scored three times," said haggard manager Bert Umber after the nail-biting last few minutes in which both sides hit the upright, though not with the ball. "Three goals on either side. Terrific entertainment. Piss-poor football, unfortunately. I'm choked. Still, I'll say this for the lads. They ran and ran and ran and ran. Unfortunately, so did the other side. I'm afraid we've got it all to do in the second leg. Terrific entertainment, though. What more can you say? I can't. £300, please."

Tynegate Rovers, the pride of the North-east, travelled to Denmark to take on Hornby Dubbo, the Danish champions. Unfortunately, they weren't meant to. They were meant



MILES KINGTON

"Three goals on either side. Terrific entertainment. Piss-poor football, unfortunately"

to travel to Turkey to take on Sporting Paklava, the Turkish cup runners-up, which means they forfeit

the first leg on away penalties and go into the second leg 5-0 down.

"It was a nightmare night for us," said manager Bill Gateshead, on a mobile phone in Copenhagen airport. "Our lads ran and ran and ran and ran, but we still couldn't get the last light to Turkey. It's always disappointing to lose the first leg 5-0, especially when you haven't played, but I'm counting our blessings - we haven't sustained any injuries, except for young Gary Romain who pulled a muscle trying to control a luggage trolley. Still, let's look on the bright side - there's always a chance that Sporting Paklava will turn up at the wrong place like we did! £250, please - and could you bring it out here in cash? As soon as possible? We're running out of the ready..."

Blarney Rovers, the little-fancied

Irish team, did their reputation no harm at all in the Cup-Losers Cup when they took on the might of Portugal's Sporting Faro and lost by the odd goal in seven, that is, 6-1.

"Lots of people were saying before the match that they were going to be all over us and everyone in the team was going to score against us," says manager Al Garvey. "Well, I think we've proved the wailing willies wrong. There were at least five of the Portuguese lads who didn't score, and one or two of them who never looked like doing so. Great stuff by us. I think we can hold our heads high and hold our hands out for £50."

Huddestone City completed a great night for British football when they met Ibiza Rovers in the Med Cup and only conceded three goals.

"We were unlucky to meet them in peak form," said manager Frank Fearless afterwards. "They had signed several German star holiday-makers in the close season and we weren't expecting it that. Still, they've got weaknesses too, and I think we can pull it all back in the second leg. What? There isn't a second leg? That was it? We've been knocked out of the competition? Well, Blimey O'Reilly. What can I say? I'm choked. Still, that's football for you. Make it £25 and a drink."

Late results  
Cup Losers Cup  
Sporting Gazebo 0 Real Meccano 0  
Racing Special 0 FC Fastnet 0

European Fruit Cup  
Sporting Nancy 0 Gay Vienna 0  
Queen of the North 0 Disco Hannover 0



# THE INDEPENDENT

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## Stop the ranting and remember your role, brothers

WHAT ARE the trade unions for? This is a question that too few of us have given much thought to in recent times. Most of us are content to answer the question by beading together words such as "irrelevant", "outdated" and, of course, "dinosaurs" (itself now a rather dated expression). More to the point, too many trade unionists, sadly, have been happy to dismiss such fundamental questions about their role as just so much navel gazing. Neither of these responses are adequate. It is not too strong to say that independent trade unions play a vital part in a free society. If they are to thrive it is because they have found a convincing way to say to potential members: "This is what we are for, this is what we can do for you."

We have witnessed at Blackpool this week both a glimpse of a modern brand of popular trade unionism and some signals that thoughtfulness is still at a premium in the Labour movement. The brothers must have enjoyed grabbing the headlines for a change. But the messages that emanated from Blackpool were not uniformly attractive.

Trade unionists were entitled, for example, to use their public platform to press for changes in legislation and social and economic policy. They put their case for an increase in the minimum wage passionately. They argued for a cut in interest rates. Some of them regretted the passing of interest rate policy to the Bank of England. Yet they listened to the Governor of the Bank of England, who is, after all, a hard-working public servant (though not yet a Union member), with respect. This is in marked contrast to, say, the heckling that Denis Healey, a Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer, famously received when he begged the unions to help the then Government during the IMF crisis in 1976.

The case for a shift in policy today is made without menaces and without the trappings and contradictions and pretensions of corporatism. The unions are just another lobby group and their success depends on the effectiveness of the case they put. It is not a rude or demeaning position for the unions to be in that places them, in this respect, on a par with the AA or the RSPCA or Greenpeace (all organisations with sizeable memberships). It is rather to recognise their new role. To employ a new union cliché, the unions are right to settle for fairness and not favours from the Government. Much of this change in the unions' attitudes is down to the quiet but effective leadership of John Monks.

This, though, was in contrast to the intemperate



attacks on "fat cats" (or "greedy bastards") made by John Edmonds. Such name calling was not a useful contribution to public policy, crowd-pleasing and headline-grabbing though it may have been. It did suggest to people outside the Conference hall that trade unions are still about envy, vindictiveness, even greed – but on their own part. But the railing at the hate-figures will not bring GMB members any more rights, any more pay, any more security. Mr Edmonds and his colleagues would do better to concentrate on the real enemies that their members – and potential members – encounter daily in the workplace. Too few trade unions provide tangible benefits

for their individual members to tackle problems such as "bastard" bosses. Above all else, unions should be able to say to potential recruits: "we may or may not gain recognition in your workplace. Maybe people don't want collective bargaining. But even if we don't get recognition and you are on an individual contract, we will give you advice if you find yourself being bullied or discriminated against". Unions such as the AEU are showing how they can help their members find suitable pensions. Such practical measures as these represent a far more convincing answer to the question of what the unions are for.

## Reading the runes in the information age

YESTERDAY'S LAUNCH of the National Year of Reading must be welcomed. Giving designated parts of the school day over to reading skills is a dose of long-overdue common sense. Any public relations efforts to promote reading among young men are also a good idea, as boys continue to lag behind girls in their studies. Tidy objections to "Big Brother tactics" are frankly ludicrous. The Government is not forcing broadcasters to include clumsy "pro-reading" messages in their plots, simply encouraging them to act responsibly.

Still, the Government should not exaggerate the overall decline of the book. Doom-sayers who lament Britain's supposed backwardness should consider that it has been many years since reading has been as popular as it is today. The new book "supermarkets" have been inspired by the American example of bookshops which feel like coffee lounges; their success is a testament to reading's continuing appeal, even in this emerging computer age.

That appeal will be stimulated, rather than undermined, by new technology: the public's hunger for information, once awakened, is insatiable. Interactive books for personal computers are only the beginning. Hand-held terminals granting access to the Internet will soon transform our view of personal entertainment. All the evidence is that such new media can revive old industries. Video was supposed to supersede cinema; instead, it has given the big screen a new lease of economic life. Only this week, an Australian cinema chain has announced 150 new cinemas in the UK.

Similarly, Americans, the most technologically advanced people in the world, still visit libraries more than any other free public service. The feel and smell of books, the romance of libraries and the thrill of turning the page to new discoveries – all of this will keep book sales healthy, even booming, well into the next century. Society cannot rest easy on literacy, but at least we should not despair.

## Lambs to the altar

SCIENTIFIC TRIALS now show that goats and sheep will try to mate with females from the species which "brought them up". If goats are placed with female sheep from birth, they will prefer sheep as partners, and vice versa. We should hardly be surprised. These experiments simply prove correct the cry of many wives, partners and girlfriends down the ages: men, sadly, really do want to marry their mothers.

# There's no quick fix to the world's economic crisis – but don't panic

YES, BUT what can they do? The Group of Seven has promised to take action to support the world economy should growth falter. President Clinton has described the world economy as facing its most serious challenge for 50 years and has set out six measures to combat it. George Soros has lost his investors \$2bn and is again calling for radical reform of the world monetary system.

Meanwhile the rest of us are left to wonder quite why the global panic indicators have clicked up quite so suddenly. Nothing has really changed since July, when Wall Street hit its highest level ever. And if it were so easy to restore confidence by having a co-ordinated cut in global interest rates, why don't they just get on and do it?

When you look at the substance of what is being proposed, as opposed to the stuffy language which is wrapped around it, there is not that much that is likely to be effective. Or at least not easily and simply effective.

There are really only two weapons in the armoury. One is multi-purpose, powerful, ready for immediate use: a concerted interest rate cut. But it is also a single-shot, as repeated use would render it ineffective; and it cannot be targeted, so it hits places that do not need to be hit and causes collateral damage. The other weapon is weaker, more complex, slower to assemble and subject to failure: finding the right mix of financial support and policy reforms for each country, company or bank that has got itself into trouble. The first weapon, cuts in rates, can buy a bit of time, but the second weapons are the ones that really matter.

First, though, can we really be facing the most serious economic challenge for 50 years? No, of course we aren't. American presidents under stress are known to harn things up a bit. It was President Nixon who described the Smithsonian Agreement in 1971, which shored up the fixed exchange rate system, as "the greatest monetary agreement in the history of mankind". It lasted about six months.

Nor should we listen too closely to George Soros. He has made a lot of money and has a good nose for markets. He correctly saw that sterling would have to come out of the Exchange Rate Mechanism in 1992, and helped it on the way. But he makes mistakes and has recently completely mis-called investment in Russia. He has now lost a lot of money and when people lose money they tend to find it easier to blame the system than blame themselves.

The dangers are, however, quite considerable, for it looks as though the world is heading into another downswing comparable to that which followed the first and second oil shocks in 1973/4 and 1979, and the 1980-89 boom. Not every country will, however, be equally affected. They never are, for just as each boom is slightly different, so too is each downswing. In some countries there will be outright recession – there already is in much of east Asia, including Japan, and in Russia. In others, maybe including ourselves, it is possible that there will be merely a sharp slow-down in growth, but with the economy managing to inch forward.

In truth, we don't know. The opinions of the experts are often rubbish. Back in July, when the US market



## HAMISH MCRAE

George Soros lost \$2bn and the rest of us wonder why the global panic indicators have clicked up so suddenly

peaked, there were plenty of immensely highly-paid American investment advisers saying that the market was soundly based and was likely to rise further. Clever people get things wrong.

What we do know is that a global downturn of uncertain dimensions seems more likely by the day. Accordingly, as the dangers mount, it is right to work out what firepower we have against recession and to get the weapons ready.

Start with interest rate cuts. Why not just do it?

Three reasons. One: a cut in rates may be right for the world as a whole but wrong for several of the countries that have to do the cutting. If you look at the US or the UK today, the domestic case for a cut remains marginal. Both countries have probably been wrong not to raise rates more over the previous two years. If they had, they might have chipped a bit off the top of the present boom and so

lessened the danger of the future slump.

Two: if the cut is not credible, it won't work, so it has to be backed up by policies of the second type noted above. The cut buys time, which is great. But it only buys time.

Three: you can only do this sort of thing when you are very sure that it is right. Co-ordinated interest rate cuts in 1987, after the stock market crash, actually made the subsequent boom and bust worse.

I still think there probably is a case for cuts in interest rates as part of a wider set of measures. Talk about this has helped shore up markets around the world in the last few days. But what will matter is the long, slow, cold slog of fixing each problem of the world economy in a way that will not be perfect, but will be good enough.

This means putting in a mixture of loans and policy programmes in countries that have made a mess of their policies. It means countries that have weak financial systems using taxpayers' money to shore them up. Each decision – do you lend money and on what terms, or do you let whatever it is go bust? – has to be taken on its merits. And some decisions will inevitably be wrong.

Patching the system also means trying to find ways of giving more resources to the two organisations that have most experience in fixing global economic problems: the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Their joint annual meetings start in Washington at the beginning of next month and something ought to be in place by then.

The Fund and the Bank have attracted a lot of flak over the last year

for supposedly inappropriate policies. They probably have made mistakes. They remain, nevertheless, the best mechanisms we have to anchor the world economy. My worry is less that they make mistakes, but rather that they are too small, too weak and too unresponsive to be able to push much-needed policy changes by sub-optimal governments.

Finally, anyone who follows global economic affairs is going to be blasted by a string of suggestions, position papers and demands for radical change in the world money system. These ideas are always bubbling away, but when things seem fine, no one pays much attention. When they are not, everyone scurries about calling for this, that or the other. It is boring, and the ideas are mostly silly, but that is what is going to happen.

There are, however, some ideas that have real merit. One, floated last week by the French Finance Minister, is to look at the idea of having bands between the major currencies, within which the authorities would try to hold their currencies. If the bands are too rigid, they merely create barriers to be broken and opportunities for people like George Soros to make speculative gains. The only people worse at fixing exchange rates than the markets are politicians. But the foreign exchanges do undoubtedly overshoot and if some way could be found to level the peaks and troughs, it would reduce, a bit, one source of instability in the world economy.

That, however, is for the future. For the present, it would be nice to pretend that there is a quick fix. There is not. Fortunately there is no need for a global catastrophe either.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"To be honest, I don't know a lot about politics. It's hard to vote, especially when your life's going well and you haven't got a grievance."  
Louise,  
pop singer

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Of making books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh."  
Ecclesiastes, chapter 12, verse 12

## Don't ask how much ask how little.

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Direct Line		£18.89
GA Life		£22.47

CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE Gerhard Schröder's attempt to involve himself in the internal affairs of Bavaria have not worked out well for him. He got a bloody nose in the weekend regional election, with no trace of any "Schröder effect". The wind of change wasn't even a gentle breeze. The Bavarians are extremely satisfied with Edmund Stoiber's management of their state because of his modernness, his efficiency and his pragmatism – the very qualities Mr Schröder likes to

think he would bring to the federal government. Thus far, the famous "Schröder effect" has only been in evidence in the election in his home state of Lower Saxony, which was, above all, a plebiscite on who should be the SPD candidate for Chancellor. Since then, he insists there's only one question: Kohl or Schröder? The old or the young? But the real question is whether Schröder doesn't look older than is good for him. *Frankfurter Allgemeine*

## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
German press comment after the Bavarian elections

THE IMMEDIATE effects of the Bavarian election are obvious. The ruling coalition has gained new heart, while the Social Democrats' certainty of victory has taken a rude knock. But

that will motivate their activists as well – though it's not clear how that will show up in the mood of ordinary voters over the last days of the campaign. But the long-term im-

plications of the vote are even more interesting. Whatever happens on 27 September, Edmund Stoiber's personal success means that, like Franz-Josef Strauss before him, he can demand a large say in shaping the policy of the centre-right coalition at a federal level. If the coalition retains power, then he will automatically become a possible successor to Kohl. If it is defeated, Stoiber will be well placed to take over full control of the CSU. *Berliner Zeitung*

THERE ARE two explanations for what happened, and the first is not as bad for the SPD as the second. First, Schröder may have failed to turn the Bavarian election into a test run for 27 September, but he nonetheless may have managed to secure the votes of some Bavarians for the federal election. The second explanation is that there is no "Schröder effect", even though a mood for change is allegedly to be felt across the country. *Süddeutsche Zeitung*

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## PANDORA

ALWAYS READY for a scrap, Arthur Scargill threatened to walk out of Eddie George's speech to the TUC conference on Tuesday. However, it seems that Scargill did not go into the hall in the first place, making his walkout rather problematic. Pandora's efforts to reach Scargill were thwarted by the answerphone message of the National Union of Mineworkers HQ: it advises callers to write in with their enquiries. The TUC press office in Blackpool explained it would be almost impossible to get a comment from anyone at the NUM because: "They hate the press because you're capitalist [explicitly deleted]; we like you because we're class collaborationists." Love, hate, Pandora likes everybody.

YESTERDAY'S DEBATE on Europe at the TUC conference was definitely attended by Arthur Scargill. The firebrand leader certainly made his presence felt this time, saying, "As miners we are an internationalist bunch. We shouldn't be trading with Europe, but with Cuba." Has Arthur taken a fancy to Cuban cigars?

CZECH PRESIDENT Vaclav Havel described him as a "living legend" and one of the "co-creators of a new American self-realisation" who "affected even Czech lands with his works". Praise indeed for rocker Lou Reed. At Havel's request, Reed was booked to play a 20-minute set at the White House this week. Reed's former band, The Velvet Underground, were apparently the inspiration to a number of Czech bands of the sixties including Plastic People of the Universe, who were imprisoned for their music and later recorded in secret at Havel's house. Given the problems faced by Bill Clinton, Lou ought to consider dropping his tune "Walk on the Wild Side" from the set, or else sing it in Czech.

AT THE Pharmacy launch party for his book *By Design*, actor Richard E Grant (pictured) was surrounded by happy revellers, including Twiggy and Samantha Fox (who stars with Grant and footballer Alan Shearer in the forthcoming film *The Match*). Unlike most of the crowd on Tuesday evening, Grant does not drink or smoke, belying the image he forged for himself in *Withnail and I*. How then does the actor relax? "My vices are sex, shopping and scuba diving, to be done as often as possible. Sometimes at the same time." If that's the case, his current image is pretty far out too.

JAMES KIRKMAN, art dealer to Lucien Freud for 20 years, is to have an exhibition of his own paintings at the Atrium Gallery in London next month. Freud severed relations with Kirkman in 1992 after a dispute over the commission from the sale of a portrait of Lord Rothschild. Kirkman, who looked after the affairs of John Piper and Henry Moore amongst others, took up painting five years ago, when he was 58. Currently tutored by Maggi Hambling at Morley College in London, James humbly admits, "I'm not a great genius." Perhaps not, but he has had work exhibited recently at the Royal Academy. "You will have to come along and decide for yourself. If you write anything about me, I can begin my cuttings file." Are you reaching for the scissors, James?

AS OUR Anti-Rucksack on the Tube Campaign gears up for a massive autumn offensive, a rather worrying letter reaches us. "Everyone who uses public transport should support your anti-rucksack campaign; you are obviously the champion of the passenger," writes a North London reader. The lady in question warns Pandora of another scourge: trolley abuse. Beware the species of shopping trolley that is "large, surrounded by a metal cage and seems to have an unusual number of corners and spikes," used as a battering ram on buses. Our reader pleads: "If I am quoted I would like to be anonymous. I use buses frequently and don't want to be set upon by angry trolleys." What a horrible fate.

What is Britain's favourite tourist city amongst readers of *Condé Nast Traveller*? Not what you'd expect. Number one choice is Glasgow, almost in a tie for second are Chester and Newcastle. London only just managed the top 10. Come again?



## Loyalty, through thick and thin



**PAUL SPIKE**  
*I hope Tony understands that, in America, friends insist their greatest obligation is to themselves*

WHAT ARE friends for? Different things, depending on whether you are British or American.

This week Tony Blair told critics that he would stay loyal to his friend Bill Clinton. He didn't say "no matter what happens", but it sounded like that. "The Prime Minister doesn't dump people because some report appears on the Internet," snapped his press spokesman.

I was worried when, in February, just after the Monica Lewinsky scandal broke, Tony Blair stood in the White House and lauded Clinton's "honesty". Beside him, the statesman from Arkansas nodded and grinned like he'd just wolfed down a double Whopper with fries.

In August, I was dismayed by the Prime Minister's take-it-on-faith endorsement of Clinton's attack on a pharmaceutical factory in Sudan. And I was appalled a few days later when, after confessing to eight months of dishonesty, Clinton came to Omaha, where his presence seemed an insult to the memory of 29 innocent martyrs to peace.

But I have to admire Tony Blair for standing by his friend after the publication of the scurrilous Starr

report. It was the right thing to do. You don't desert your friends when they're under fire. You take friends for who they are, not who you want them to be.

So what are friends for? Tony Blair's friendship has been good for Bill Clinton: good for bolstering his reputation, for giving credence to his pack of lies, for endorsing his flawed character, for seeming to legitimise his recent act of military aggression

— one that appears more cynical as time goes by.

Bill Clinton's friendship hasn't been all that good for Tony Blair. The efforts Clinton made to bring peace to Northern Ireland would, I suspect, have been made anyway. They did not cost Clinton very much, and they satisfied the new generation of Irish-Americans who loathe terrorism and wanted to see the troubles end on their grandparents' island. Clinton's friendship has brought Blair a raft of criticism. But, as one of my English friends said to me recently, "Friendship in this country implies an obligation". Which is why becoming someone's friend in Britain is far more difficult than it is in America.

In "friendly" America, perfect strangers beam smiles and coo "nice day" at each other in a pantomime of synthetic intimacy. It's not that Americans necessarily make bad friends; but American friendship often does not carry any obligation. Friendship is seen more as an opportunity, a way to get something, another stop on the social network. Americans can shed their friends as easily as they replace their trainers,

and sometimes when you go to parties in New York or Washington, it feels as if you are with a group of people who are all out shopping for new friends.

I learned a lot about friendship when I left New York and settled in London. It was not as if I arrived as a complete stranger. I knew several people whom I thought were good friends. These were Londoners who I had first met in places like Spain or Turkey, places where we met on an equal footing as foreigners. Later, whenever I came through London, they welcomed me into their homes, offered me gracious hospitality for days or even weeks.

Everything changed the day I said I was going to settle permanently in this country. A subtle distance suddenly entered the relationship. It wasn't frosty, but it wasn't nearly as warm a reaction as I had expected, had hoped for.

From being a visiting houseguest, a member of the family, suddenly I was someone they rang to invite to a dinner party six weeks hence. It took me a long time to adapt to this, to put aside my feelings of rejection, to understand that

I was being vetted. The vetting lasted about a year. I knew it was over on that first Christmas morning when, unannounced, my London friends suddenly arrived on my doorstep bearing an armload of gifts, champagne, delicious caviar.

On the other hand, whenever I returned to New York and phoned old friends, I noticed that the first thing they asked was, "Where are you right now?" If I said I was calling from a hotel room, they'd invariably say, "Hey, let's get together tonight". If I was calling from the airport, the chance that I might need a couch to flop on for a night or two would provoke a very different response. "Hey, this is kind of a difficult week for me. How long are you staying? Maybe we can do lunch."

There is no point in resenting this difference between British and American friendships; that's just the way it is. I applaud Tony Blair for remaining true to his friend Bill. I just hope he understands that, in America, even best friends will insist that their greatest obligation is to be true to themselves. Such an unequal friendship makes for a rather special relationship.

## Parents, not schools, must teach their children to read

"READING," Francis Bacon declared, "maketh a full man." Fullness is evidently the Government's worry of the week. David Blunkett has announced a "National Reading Campaign". Every school in the country will receive £1,000 with which to galvanise the reading habit among our young.

This is New Labour's favourite tactic — a cheap but, well-aimed "stimulus", which (like a Tomahawk missile) targets its objective so pin-point precisely that improvement is, after impact, self-sustaining. Create a few super-nurses or super-teachers as "role models" or throw a few sexy books at school children and reform will follow as surely as day follows night. No need for all that expensive infrastructural investment.

The thinking behind Blunkett's campaign is well-intentioned but confused as to what is understood by "literacy". It goes back to what is the most fundamental, but uninvestigated, split in our education system: the point where it all starts. Where the home meets kindergarten, that is. Most readers of this and other quality newspapers will have been taught to read by their mothers (or their fathers) before they went to school. Once enrolled in school, most of them will have been taught to write by paid teachers, building on the parental literacy foundation.

Students of the history of the novel are familiar with that peculiar phenomenon in the 18th and 19th centuries — the illiterate female reader. There were large audiences of women for writers like Richardson or Jane Austen who could read fluently, but hardly write at all. Writing was reserved for the male sex as an occupational skill. There were, one is told, women who could read Shakespeare but who would sign the



**JOHN SUTHERLAND**  
*Blunkett's campaign is well intentioned but confused as to what is understood by 'literacy'*

marriage register with a cross. They had been taught to read by their mothers — it was passed down as a household skill like darning or dumpling making. No need for girls to learn penmanship. "Clerks" and "scrivener" (like scribes before them) were exclusively male trades. You could earn your living by being able to write or even "copy" accurately. There was no demand for readers — except as passive consumers of novels or cookery books.

All this changed with two momentous events: the 1870 universal education act, which gave girls equal educational rights, and the typewriter. The new stenographic machines of the 1890s required a dexterity which girls trained in needlework by their mothers had, although he doesn't say it (remembering the "Back to Basics" and "Victorian Values" fiascos), is "less divorce" and "bring back the nuclear family" and the house-bound mother. These are deep waters. It's easier to give each school £1,000, spout some uplifting slogans, and hope for the best.

was as unmanly as knowing how to work a dishwasher, or a steam iron.

By the same kind of cultural inertia, women have retained their historical edge as readers. On Wednesday's Radio 4 Today programme, David Blunkett noted the curious phenomenon that girls have less problem with reading than boys who tend to see the activity as degradingly "sissy". Keyboards, on the other hand, have been masculinized in the last decade by computers and, more particularly, computer games. No one ever played Flight Simulator or Kombar on a typewriter. We have, I suspect, a rising generation of little boys with advanced keyboard skills to rival those of the 1890s "typewriter girl", but who can't read worth a damn.

The middle and upper classes still have a great advantage over the under classes (this week's term is "the excluded"): they feel the obligation to teach their kids to read before sending them off to school. The head start is rarely overtaken by lower-class children.

This middle-class pre-school advantage is, however, being sadly eroded by the 1990s epidemic of divorce and single-parenthood. Lone parents, however omniscient and well-intending, do not have the hundreds of hours necessary to recruit their offspring into the reading habit.

When David Blunkett talks about the necessity of a "culture change" to reinvigorate the reading habit, I suspect that what he means, although he doesn't say it (remembering the "Back to Basics" and "Victorian Values" fiascos), is "less divorce" and "bring back the nuclear family" and the house-bound mother. These are deep waters. It's easier to give each school £1,000, spout some uplifting slogans, and hope for the best.



Women traditionally have read more than men

The reading skills of the British population in the 1990s present a strangely mixed picture. As publishers, particularly reprint publishers of "classic" books, will tell you, business has never been better. My local Dillons, for example, has no fewer than five editions of *Oliver Twist*, *Emma*, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, and *Middlemarch* all costing less than £5 (one, the "Wordsworth" edition, costing less than a pound). Each is selling on average 20,000 copies a year.

If you do the sums, Dickens (with his dozen titles) is selling over a million copies a year — infinitely more than he ever sold in his Victorian heyday. There are 700 titles listed in the catalogues of the two market leaders, World's Classics and Penguin Classics. At one point in the early 1990s (it's cooled off a bit now), sales were expanding at 30 per cent a year. Take this with the fact that over 100,000 new titles are produced annually for the British market (plus half a million "in-print" titles) and what you do not see is a country that has somehow lost the

reading habit. More reading is happening than at any time in history.

But who is doing the reading? The over-forties and, particularly, the over-fifties. All those school teachers who took early retirement, who saved up their "serious reading" for when they had time and a bit of pocket money, which (with the kids off their hands) they now do. This is the generation whose mothers taught them to read, who benefitted from the 1944 Education Act and all the new text books, who cut their teeth on text- (not picture-) based comics like the *Wizard*, *Rover* and *Hotspur*. Look at today's kids weaned on *The Teletubbies*, hanging away at interactive computer games, and reading picture books.

Project forward fifty years. Will they be reading *Middlemarch* (or even *Transpotting*)? If he really wants to invest in long-term remedies for the future reading deficit, Mr Blunkett should amend the tax and benefit laws to allow mothers (particularly) to spend more time, and better time, with their pre-school infants.

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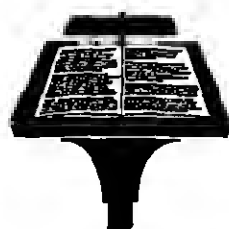
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## Decent pay for all, please, Tony



## PODIUM

**RODNEY BICKERSTAFFE**  
*From a speech by the general secretary of Unison to the TUC in Blackpool*

OF ALL the times I've spoken on this subject, this is one of the most difficult. Part of me is cock-a-hoop, proud that we now have, for the first time in our time, a minimum wage law in this country below which no one will be exploited. It is a tribute to the hundreds of thousands of low-paid workers who campaigned for its introduction. This was not a campaign of the great and the good. Few politicians proclaimed its virtues. Few economists lent their names and brains. Some feared it would undermine free collective bargaining and even trade union organisation. It was an unpopular cause, the lost cause of the forgotten third of the population — low paid, disregarded, excluded — the sweepers, the cleaners, the cooks and the carers who marched and lobbied and argued for the minimum wage, until they transformed it from the desperate cry of the few to the commitment of the many.

Yes, part of me is very proud and pleased. But part of me is outraged, that at the end of the 20th century, at the gateway of the new millennium we still will not pay a decent living wage.

I don't and I won't deny the work that George Bain and his colleagues have done on the low-pay commission. His report will rank with the great social reports of the post and pre-war years. And I don't want to appear grudging, an ingrate.

But there is no gentle, easy way to put this: £3.60 per hour of work before stoppages cannot be fair and it cannot be an acceptable level. It is not enough for food, for clothing, for rent; not enough for a night out or to give the kids a treat. Not enough to sustain a life that we all have a right to expect.

I believe £3.60 is a retreat from earlier commitments: Two-and-a-half million less people covered than the half million earnings target we so long fought for; some 600,000 less people than the wages councils covered before their abolition.

I don't expect public confessions from my prime minister nor from you, Mr President, for that matter. But these six coins in my hand are worth £3.60, and I defy Tony and Cherie, John Edmonds, me or anybody to try and live for six months on that rate, let alone for a lifetime —

and be happy and content. But it's only £3.60 if you're 23 years old. If you're 21 or younger, not this year but next, you'll get £3 an hour — £114 per week — not £3,000 a year.

I tell you, it's bad news to short change anybody at any age, but to short change the future, our sons and daughters and grandchildren? What a message to the young. And of course the landlord won't charge any less, food isn't any

cheaper at the supermarket check-out. No pub or disco will reduce its prices because you're on a second-class minimum wage.

It's an old trade union principle. If you're 61 or 21 and you're doing the job, you should get the rate for the job. And I don't believe that the jobs of the next millennium depend on pathetically low rates of pay. The danger, the fear has always been that if you set the minimum wage too low, if you fail to connect up with the collective bargaining agenda, it might become a maximum, rather than a minimum, level.

We need to refocus our efforts. The composite calls for a bargaining target of at least £4.61, our current half male median earnings figure.

Before long no worker should have less than £5 an hour negotiated by unions. Additionally, there needs to be a new fair wages clause. Our last one, scrapped by the Tories, was to bring us into line with every other European country — requiring employers to recognise the going rate in the sector and not give cowboy contractors the chance to legally undermine public sec-

tor provision and standards. And we need a mechanism for uprating the minimum wage annually. Without it the rate is static and loses even its little value.

Before the Minimum Wage Act comes into effect, my union hopes that trades unions, pensioners and community groups will rally together to not only mark the occasion of the new law but to highlight our commitment to press forward through the hunched walls of poverty pay to our goal.

Plimsoll lines have been mentioned and our Prime Minister this very day spoke of sinking ships. We know that it's those in steerage who suffer when the water comes over. We want a way out of steerage.

Our time will come. We're not there yet. But our aim is, as always, the end of sweated labour, the end of wage exploitation, the end of poverty pay and the start of an era when the labourers are not only worthy of their hire but get it and at a decent level.

Tony said we're at the start of the "giving age". Give us decency and dignity. Support the cause, support the motion I move.

092412



# Help the madman of Europe

YOU DON'T need to make a phone call to the Foreign Office, the Quai D'Orsay or the State Department to know exactly what their Albanian watchers have been thinking this week. "Here we go again." In their more polite moments they may talk about the sick man of Europe, but you know what they are really thinking - that Albania is in fact the madman of Europe.

A real madman can be locked up though. Lurching from one violent crisis to the next, Albania cannot be locked up - or ignored. Whatever happens, the rest of Europe has no choice: it has to persist in helping this wounded country - even if it means doing so for a generation. If Albania is isolated and forgotten, we will all feel the consequences.

It is hard to know where to start in trying to explain the roots of the political culture that have led Albania into disaster. The tragedy is that since its liberation from the Turks in 1912, Albania has continued to live by politics of the pashas. As one Albanian put it to me: "Either you're in power - or in jail." And it is this relentless and destructive tradition that Albania has not yet had the chance to break.

Following the corrupt despotism of the Ottomans came the inter-war dictatorship of King Zog, then the Italian fascist occupation, followed by the Nazis followed in short order by Titoism and Stalinism with a short break for a spot of Maoism. Still groggy then, it is hardly surprising that Albanians have had problems finding their balance in modern Europe.

At first, after the fall of communism in 1991, it was easy to explain away the madness that then gripped the country. It was anger against the Communists which led to an orgy of destruction, to the burning down of factories and the wholesale pillage of anything state-owned.

And then it seemed as if things were going to be all right. Sali Berisha, a sophisticated former cardiologist, came to power in 1992 and began to set things to rights. He had the full support of the west and money began to pour into the country from the hundreds of thousands who had fled to Greece, Italy and elsewhere looking for jobs and money.

Although Albania was starting from a very low base, its economy began to grow. Foreigners, especially Greeks and Italians, were interested in investing and no one paid much attention when a man called Fatos Nano, the leader of the Socialist Party - the ex-Communists - was slung in jail, allegedly for pilfering Italian aid.

For a glorious moment then it looked as though Albania was going to make it. It has some of the most unspoiled coastline in the whole of Europe, and though small, the signs were encouraging. For example, it was common to meet men who had worked in Greece, saved up some money, bought some machinery and come home to set up some sort of workshop or another.

But something insidious was happening. Pyramid investment schemes began to operate. This was perhaps to be expected because they were simultaneously springing up in Russia, Romania, Serbia and elsewhere. The difference was that Albanians, dazzled by the phenomenal rates of interest they were paying out, invested almost all their savings in them. When, at the beginning of last year, the schemes came tumbling down, the rest of Europe thought the Albanians were idiots. How could they have been so gullible?

The answers they gave were instructive. "We're not as stupid as you think," explained



TIM JUDAH

*Lurching from one violent crisis to the next, Albania cannot be ignored. Europe must aid this wounded nation*

noe man. "We thought our money must be safe since these pyramids were laundering criminal money and paying the government and socialists at the same time. Obviously we thought they would have a vested interest in keeping them going."

Last March the country was up in arms, it rose in a general uprising against Berisha. Berisha tried to cling to power but eventually resigned last August after his Democratic Party was crushed in the general elections. The rest of Europe seemed happy. Fatos Nano, out of jail now, was Prime Minister and so Albania could begin rebuilding - again.

What the rest of Europe had not counted on was the politics of revenge. Nano had been in jail for four years and Berisha was an angry man. Ministries were purged of Berisha supporters and in came Nano's men. It was Albanian buggin's turn - and with increasing frustration, people began to realise that the new lot were as corrupt as the old. Political tension rose and fell. In September Azem Hajdari, one of Berisha's closest allies, was shot and wounded in parliament by a Socialist deputy.

While most of the country returned to some form of normality though, the new government, made up mostly of southerners, never managed to reassert its control over large areas of the north, including Tropoja, the region from where Berisha comes from. The beginning of the conflict in Kosovo now meant that he also had another stick with which to beat the Socialists.

Tensions began to mount once more and, at the same time, security situation began to deteriorate again. Trucks on the main road south began to be held up by gangsters from a village known as a Democratic Party stronghold. Gangsters, politicians and men from the Kosovo Liberation Army began squabbling over the lucrative arms trade to the north. Then, at the end of last month, out of the blue, the government arrested six former Berisha ministers and government officials charging them with crimes against humanity.

Berisha kept his chance, claiming that democracy was under threat and that it should be defended even "by force". When, last Sunday, Azem Hajdari was assassinated in front of the Democratic Party headquarters, his supporters claimed that the government had killed him. In fact, since he was alleged to have been a kingpin gun runner, he may have fallen foul of a something far less sinister: Berisha supporters began a violent rampage through Tirana, forcing Nano to flee his office at gunpoint.

Now Nano wants Berisha in jail - to pay back Berisha in kind. But, if violence cannot be curbed, then the Balkans and indeed the rest of Europe is facing a minor cata-



Armed Democratic Party protesters on the streets of Tirana in this week's attempted coup

Hektor Pustina/ASP

strophe. A lawless Albania is one in which mafia gangs with tentacles that reach to Milan, Stuttgart and even London can flourish. It is also one that sends out hundreds of thousands of impoverished people in search of work - or crime - anything with which to raise enough cash to live with.

Over the last four years, some 30,000 Albanians have asked for political asylum in Britain alone and every single one has claimed to be from Kosovo. In fact two thirds of them are from Albania. Italy has a major problem with the Albanian mafia - and so does the Italian mafia, who have found the Albanians muscling in on their home turf. In Germany too, impoverished Albanians have become a major headache for the police and the drugs squads.

Albania is trapped in a vicious circle. Be-

cause it is run by politicians who believe that compromise is humiliation, who believe in revenge and in making as much money as possible before being overthrown, no one wants to invest there. In this climate, Albanian businessmen, plagued by protection rackets, cannot rebuild their country either and so no jobs can be created.

What Albania needs is a completely new set of politicians. Since we cannot create them ourselves the only thing to do is to persist. Scholarships, aid, training and any other useful forms of help have to continue because it is in our interests to help as much as it is in theirs. We should support the calls of Germany and Italy who are recommending an international police force for the country and increased EU aid.

An unstable Albania threatens the rest of the region. For example, the uprising in Kosovo was only possible after last year's uprising released a million Kalashnikovs from the armouries for anyone to loot, or in the case of Kosovars, to buy.

Macedonia, with its large Albanian minority, remains a fragile state and if unrest spreads from Kosovo and Albania, the long-predicted "doomsday scenario" of war across the southern Balkans could easily follow.

So, we must persist. Like the vast majority of decent Albanians, we must wait until they find their new leaders. Gloomily Julia Goga-Cooke, the editor of the BBC Albanian Service, says: "I don't think that will happen in my lifetime." But we have no other choice.

## RIGHT OF REPLY

RUTH LEA



The head of policy at the Institute of Directors answers Ken Livingstone's attack on 'fat cats'

I READ Ken Livingstone's recent comments on directors' pay and the need for the Institute of Directors to "get their heads out of the pig trough long enough to take a look at the real world" with weary resignation.

May I explain our position? Directors' remuneration is broadly determined by market forces, as is the pay of trade union leaders, footballers, pop stars, TV presenters and son on. Moreover, for top-performing British directors, the market is international. We live in a global, market economy. This is the real world!

Now, we accept that the remuneration of large company (FTSE100) directors has increased more rapidly than for their employees in recent years. And, indeed, it has increased at a faster rate than for the vast majority of directors.

Last year we conducted an IOD members survey which showed that in 1997 the average increase in remuneration (comprising salary, bonuses and all "perks") was in the range of three to four per cent - much in line with the national average. The survey showed that the directors of many small and medium-sized companies were relatively modestly paid. Average remuneration for a director of a company with turnover of less than £25m was £64,000 (less than John Monks', I understand), and the equivalent figure for a director of a company with turnover of between £25m and £200m was £105,000.

Given directors' huge responsibilities, the risks they take and the hours they commit to their firms, these figures are modest. And let us not forget the huge contribution businessmen and women make to our country. Business provides jobs and creates wealth and pays for welfare and the NHS. And pays the salary of the MP for Brent East!

## In pursuit of the perfect chip

THOUGH IT contains barely a dozen recipes that you would want to attempt, this book is gastronomic writing of the highest order, deserving a place alongside Elizabeth David and M F K Fisher. The pieces gathered here originally appeared in American Vogue. It is strange to think that Steingarten's heroic culinary feats - such as searing *choucroute garnie* à l'Alsacienne twice a day for five days while researching sauerkraut, or importing rendered horse fat from Vienna to New York in an attempt to achieve the perfect *frite* - first appeared in a journal which is otherwise a celebration of anorexia.

However, it would be inaccurate to assume that Steingarten is hogishly greedy, though at one point he finds it



### THURSDAY BOOK

THE MAN WHO ATE EVERYTHING

BY JEFFREY STEINGARTEN, HEADLINE, £14.99

impossible to resist a slab of prize-winning barbecue ribs that has just arrived through the post: "profoundly delicious, satisfying every need that the human body and soul have for food". It is just that he is irrationally, heroically obsessed when it comes to food. Where most dedicated food-lovers stop is where Steingarten starts.

He spends almost a year attempting to re-create the *pain au levain* na-

tural produced by Lionel Poilane at 8 rue du Cherche-Midi, Paris, the "most famous bakery in the world". Similarly, Steingarten spares no effort to reproduce the "most honoured mashed potatoes in the world", whipped up by Joel Robuchon (Omar Sharif always has two helpings), though he finds Robuchon's addition of half a pound of butter to every pound of *la ratte* potatoes to be a trifle excessive.

Winningly, Steingarten admits his mistakes. His attempt to cook the legendary Japanese beef known as Wagyu results in steak that is "fibrous, mealy and nearly inedible" (following a meal of Wagyu in Osaka costing \$340 a head, his second effort is "wonderful"). And his quest for the ideal chip comes unstuck when "the horse fat began prematurely to go rancid and dark".

Along with such Herculean endeavours, Steingarten mixes in a generous measure of good sense. Pondering the widespread fear of raw shellfish, he notes that "the chance of suffering a substantial injury in one day of skinning is 10 times worse than the chance of getting sick from eating a plate of cold, plump, briny, succulent raw oysters".

Every health freak should be forced to read the chapter ominously entitled "Salad the Silent Killer", which gleefully informs readers that undercooked broad beans contain cyanide and fava beans can cause nausea, fatigue and, in extreme cases, jaundice. The sale of chickpeas is illegal in many Indian states due to the risk of lathyrism (lesions of the spinal cord which cause paralysis of the legs),



Could Viennese horse fat be the secret of the ideal frite?

while immature green potatoes can actually kill.

Steingarten is particularly revealing on the topic of salt. He notes that though the Yanomamo Indians of northern Brazil, who eat a virtually salt-free diet, have "amazingly low blood pressure", the lack of sodium in their diet means that any injury may be disastrous (a particular drawback, since one-third of Yanomamo deaths result from violence). In any case, dropping salt would make no difference to most of us. For 92 per cent of the world's population, there is "no significant link" between salt and blood pressure.

Warning to his theme, Steingarten thunders, "Why public health officials want the entire population to act as if we were allergic to salt is beyond me... They never bother to calculate the profound benefits that scrumptious food can bring to our otherwise desperate lives. In 1,000-plus pages of federal nutritional reports I was unable to locate any instance of the words 'delicious', 'delectable', 'savory' or 'yummy'."

Steingarten approaches dieting with the same thoroughness that he tackles indulgence. After a resplendent month as a vegan, he finds that his cholesterol is "slightly higher than when

I started". With some difficulty, he persuades Proctor & Gamble to let him cook with Olestra, the miracle fat which passes unchanged through the body. Although the notorious problem of "anal seepage" has been overcome, he finds that Olestra-fried delicacies are "repulsively greasy". Steingarten's sharpest barbs are reserved for the best-selling faddists who propound no-fat diets.

This nutritional good sense is balanced by saliva-inducing forays into rural Italy and Kyoto. In his final chapter, he tackles that most daunting of all culinary challenges, the turkey. If you're condemned to having this gruesome bird, you may want to try out a "Thompson's Turkey" in three months time. Described as being "something of a cult", it involves baking the fowl in a flour-and-egg crust. Though the meat is "the most flavour-some and moist you will ever taste", Steingarten resents the loss of the turkey skin. Except for his bizarre prejudices concerning British taste and cuisine ("The British go to Greece just for the food, which says volumes to me"), this book is a banquet of wit, curiosity and good sense.

CHRISTOPHER HIRST

### THURSDAY POEM

FROG  
BY STANLEY MOSS

I hold this living coldness,  
this gland with eyes, mouth, feet,  
shattered mirror of all creatures,  
pulsing smile of fish, serpent, and man,  
feet and fingers come out of a head  
that is also a tail,  
just as I caught him most of my life ago  
in the sawdust of the icehouse.  
I could not believe in him if he were not here.  
He rests my spirit  
and is beautiful as waterlilies.  
The sound of his call is too large for his body:  
"irrelevant, irrelevant, irrelevant."  
Once in the dry countries he was a god.

From Stanley Moss's 'Asleep in the Garden: new and selected poems' (Anvil, £9.95). Anvil Press celebrates its 30th birthday this autumn. Our poems this week come from its latest titles.

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THE WORLD OF  
INTERIORS



THE  
BIGGEST  
DECORATION  
ISSUE  
EVER

ON SALE 17 SEPTEMBER



# Barrett Deems

"BARRETT," SAID Louis Armstrong, "you're the only guy in the world that makes coffee nervous." Barrett Deems, billed as "the fastest drummer in the world" during his five years with Armstrong's All Stars, was an abrasive man driven by a restless energy.

He had constant rows with the rest of the band, who used to hold meetings about him.

"I don't care," said Armstrong, "as long as he goes ding-a-ding-a-ding-a-ding."

"What's wrong with you?" Armstrong's manager Joe Glaser asked the drummer.

"Nothing," answered Deems. "I feel fine."

Deems was given his first drum because he was a hyperactive child. He remained so for the 84 years of his life.

I met him when he came to Liverpool with Armstrong in 1956. I wrote in *Melody Maker*: "The coffee lounge of Liverpool's Adelphi Hotel is designed to strike awe into all but cabinet ministers and the most eminently U. In Barrett Deems they hit a dead end." At that stage Deems had taken a dislike to all Europeans and wasn't afraid to say so. Asked what he thought of Europe he said, "They should clean it up, paint it and sell it."

He was a small, wiry little man whose most notable feature was his huge Adam's apple and he never stopped moving. "I play drums the way I used to box," I ducked as he demonstrated with a quick jab and uppercut to the tangle. A portly gentleman in evening dress rose from his chair nearby, folded his newspaper and left.

"The way we travel round the world, you got to stay healthy," Deems said. He admitted to smoking four packs of Camels a day. He offered me one and lit it with a cigarette lighter like a blowlamp. "That's a real lighter, man. The best make in the world. You can't knock it out; you can't blow it out. Look," he blew. The lighter went out.

Deems travelled the world with Armstrong on tours sponsored by the US State Department and documented in the film *Satchmo the Great* (1956). At a concert in Ghana, Deems's drum feature "Mop Mop" so excited the 100,000 crowd that a riot broke out. That same year the band appeared in the film *High Society* with Bing Crosby, Frank Sin-

atra and Grace Kelly. Amongst the more than 2,000 recordings he made during his career Deems played on two of Armstrong's most famous albums - *Satch Plays Fats* (1955) and *Satch Plays W.C. Handy* (1956).

Deems said of Armstrong: He was the most beautiful man I ever worked for and the best entertainer in the world. He was constantly giving money away. Sometimes, if someone on the street asked him for 25 cents, he'd give them a \$100 bill and tell them to buy some food and clothes and find a place to stay. A lot of people would ask him about me. "Why do you have a white drummer?" He'd just say "Because I like his playing." Period.

I remember once we were in Biloxi, Mississippi, and we couldn't find a hotel that would let us in. So here's Louis, who always had about \$10,000 cash in his pocket, and the guy can't get a hotel room. The whole band had to sleep in the gymnasium that night. Go figure it out.

It is hard to think of anyone else who worked for so many eminent bandleaders. When Deems began to play he couldn't be bothered to learn to read music and never did. "Who cares?" he said. "Buddy Rich and Gene Krupa couldn't read too well either, but they could play. Guess what? That's what counts."

Deems was in Chicago as the Twenties roared and the city was transformed into the crucible of jazz by Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton, King Oliver and other of the music's innovators. "Every block had four clubs," he said. "You only made \$14 a week playing from nine at night until four in the morning. But you could hear everyone - Krupa, Dave Tough, Baby Dodds, all the great drummers." Deems led his own

*At that stage Deems had taken a dislike to all Europeans and wasn't afraid to say so. Asked what he thought of Europe he said, 'They should clean it up, paint it and sell it'*

bands in Chicago before coming to the notice of the jazz violinist Joe Venuti, a man with a similarly abrasive character. Deems joined Venuti's band in 1937 and stayed until 1944 when petrol shortage and the draft forced the violinist to disband.

Deems worked for Jimmy Dorsey, Tommy Dorsey and then Woody Herman before returning to his home town of Springfield. Then, in 1948, he joined Red Norvo. His eccentric



'Why do you have a white drummer?' Louis Armstrong was often asked. He would just say, 'Because I like his playing' Redfern

stage personality was well captured in the 1951 film *Rhythm King*, a story about a young songwriter and a budding girl vocalist in which Deems was given a feature number. His first visit to Europe followed shortly afterwards under the leadership of Charlie Barnet. On his return he made a significant move by leaving the big-band field to work in the Dixieland group led by the cornettist Muggsy Spanier. This was the first of many such small bands he joined.

He travelled, and died in his fifties as a result. "Never cared for the stuff," commented Deems, who abstained from most of his life.

As the Armstrong sidemen had learned, the Teagarden men found that travelling as a sextet with Deems on board had its problems. "He was no trouble," said the band's trumpeter, Bobby Lewis. "We put Barrett's drums in the car and Barrett in the boot."

Deems settled finally in Chicago

American musicians billed as "The Wonderful World of Louis Armstrong" in the early Eighties. Fast becoming a legend in Chicago, he recorded and worked there with a blues pianist who already had that status, Art Hodes, an expatriate Russian who had become a jazz great.

Still thin and sprightly into his eighties, Deems wore bottle-thick glasses, had hair that a hairdresser described as "18 cowlicks" and had grown a beard which failed to stop the Adam's apple protruding at will. He resembled, as one of the local papers put it, a rooster. In the early Nineties, he took advantage of his extraordinary appearance and volatile stage manner to form a big band. The audience loved his corrosive cracks, but these did not detract from the fact that his band, which played regularly at the Elbo Room in Chicago, was a very good one that attracted some of the city's best musicians. Amongst them was Deems's wife Jane Johnson, who played alto and flute in the band and was more than 30 years his junior.

One of the band members said to him, "Don't you worry about the big age difference?" "No," said Deems. "If she dies, she dies."

Researching for a programme on Armstrong a few years ago, the

radio presenter Campbell Burnap and producer Terry Carter called at Deems's home. It reflected the drummer's personality. By now he collected drums and one bedroom was jammed to the ceiling with them. One of the largest was a bass drum that had been used in John Philip Sousa's original brass band. The six cats and three dogs that ran about the house were unimpressed.

Deems nearly died from a collapsed lung in 1993 but determinedly rose from his bed and continued to lead and play with the band each week until his death. His drumming was slightly less swift, but otherwise unimpaired.

"I got six, maybe seven hundred lighters back home. I collect them," he told me at the Adelphi. "This one's a present from Zildjian, who makes the cymbals." He lit the monster again. "Look, you can't blow it out." This time he blew more gently. The huge flame flickered - and then shot up again. Deems beamed delightedly. "See!"

STEVE VOICE

Barrett Deems, drummer and bandleader, born Springfield, Illinois 1 March 1914; twice married (one daughter); died Chicago 15 September 1998.

# Sir Arthur Vick

IN 1964 Arthur Vick became President and Vice-Chancellor of the Queen's University of Belfast. During the following ten years he demonstrated his consummate administrative skills, guiding the university during a period of terrorism and political unrest which started in 1968.

Queen's University had been one of the three non-sectarian universities of the University of Ireland formed in 1845, and it remained non-sectarian, welcoming students from across the religious divide. It says much for Vick's quiet and unassuming administration that the university remained an oasis of peace and sanity, where students from across the divide met and studied, debated and socialised together. Many formed lasting relationships, which in the long term has greatly helped the return of peace and sanity to the province.

As the Troubles developed, Belfast became a virtual cultural wilderness, until with the strong support and initiative of Vick, the annual Queen's University Arts Festival was developed. This event, which had been set up on a smaller scale the year before his appointment, was expanded to offer both the students and the general public a wide range of cultural events which were (and continue to be) very well supported.

Vick was also keen on developing closer relationships between the university and industry, both worldwide and in particular in Northern Ireland. He supported the creation of industrial advisory units to provide consultancy services, design and development and continuing education courses aimed to industrial need. He supported the development of a Low Cost Automation Centre and the Wolfson Signal Processing Centre, which after his retirement, together with the existing Materials Testing Station, formed the Northern Ireland Technology Centre at Queen's.

Vick was born in 1911, and educated at the Waverley Grammar School, Birmingham, and Birmingham University, where he obtained a physics degree and a PhD in solid state physics. From 1936 to 1944 he was an Assistant Lecturer and then Lecturer in Physics at University College London. During the Second World War he was transferred to the Ministry of Supply, becoming an Assistant Director of Research. This gave him administrative experience which stood him in good stead.

After the war Vick returned to the academic world as a Lecturer, and later Senior Lecturer, in Physics at Manchester University. In 1950 he was appointed Professor of Physics in the University College of North Staffordshire (later to become Keele University). There his administrative skills were in demand as he served as Vice-Principal and Acting Principal from 1950 to 1954. He was also involved in the Institute of Physics, holding various positions including Vice-President and Honorary Secretary.

In 1959 Vick moved back into scientific administration, firstly as the Deputy Director of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE) at Harwell, and then as its Director from 1960 to 1964. From 1964 until he returned to the academic world in 1968 he was Member for Research of the UKAEA, with responsibility for the Harwell, Culham and Warrington Laboratories. He continued to serve on several important committees, including as member of the Advisory Council on Research and Development of the Ministry of Power (1960-63) and the University Grants Committee (1959-66), as well as being President of the Association of Teachers in Colleges and Departments of Education from 1964 to 1972.

Vick was knighted in 1973 for his services to higher education in Northern Ireland. He will be remembered by many in Queen's University as a very friendly, if rather shy, man, who made a most significant contribution to the development of the university in difficult times.

Vick retired to live at Warwick. He became very involved in Warwick University, serving as Chairman of Council (1977-80) and Pro-Chancellor from 1977 to 1992. He helped develop its entrepreneurial culture, aimed to protect the university from the never-ending so-called "efficiency gains", a euphemism for cuts.

BERNARD CROSSLAND

Francis Arthur Vick, physicist and university administrator. Born 5 June 1911; Assistant Lecturer in Physics, University College, London 1936-39; Lecturer 1939-44; Lecturer in Physics, Manchester University 1944-47; Senior Lecturer 1947-50; OBE 1945; Professor of Physics, University College of North Staffordshire 1950-59; Vice-Principal 1950-54; Acting Principal 1953-55; Deputy Director, AERE, Harwell 1959-60; Director 1960-64; Director of Research Group, UKAEA 1961-64; Member for Research 1964-66; President and Vice-Chancellor, Queen's University, Belfast 1966-76; KT 1973; Pro-Chancellor, Warwick University 1977-92; married 1943 Elizabeth Story (died 1989; one daughter); died Warwick 2 September 1998.

# Dane Clark

FEW ACTORS were more effective at portraying hellfire, chip-on-their-shoulder characters than Dane Clark. Small in stature, but tough and wiry, he was frequently compared to John Garfield, one of the top stars at the same studio, Warner's. But Clark, though popular with cinemagoers in the Forties, never achieved similar stardom. His pugnaeous rebels created less empathy than Garfield's and sometimes (as in his overdrawn anarchic painter of *A Stolen Life*) upset a film's balance in their ferocity.

The actor's intensity was both his strength and his weakness. Though he graduated to leading roles at the studio, his best chance came when he was loaned to Republic to star in Frank Borzage's *Moonrise*, a moody piece in which Clark was ideally cast as a hot-tempered outsider whose father was hanged for murder.

Born Bernard Zanville in 1913 in Brooklyn, New York, he was a fine athlete and was given the opportunity to become a baseball player, but chose higher education instead. He received a BA from Cornell University and a law degree from St John's University, New York, but the Depression limited his opportunities and he worked as a labourer, boxer and model before turning to writing for radio.

This led to acting, and he made his Broadway debut (as Bernard Zanville) in Friedrich Wolf's *Sailors of Catalina* (1934), produced by the leftist Theatre Union. George Tobias (later also a contract player at Warner's) was in the cast and he and Clark were among those arrested when some of the company joined Communist pickets demonstrating against Orbach's department store. Though the matinee was cancelled, the actors were bailed out in time for the evening performance.

Clark was next in *Panic* (1935), which ran for only three performances but was described by one critic as "the outstanding critical failure of the year". An anti-capitalist blank-verse tragedy that attempted to account for the national bank calamity of 1933 in terms of Greek drama, it is considered an important part of theatrical history for several reasons - it was the first play by the poet Archibald MacLeish, it

starred the 19-year-old Orson Welles, its producers included John Houseman and Virgil Thomson, and the Greek-style chorus was choreographed by Martha Graham.

Clark then joined the socially conscious Group Theatre and acted in a highly praised Clifford Odets double-bill, the anti-Nazi *Till The Day I Die* and the radical *Waiting for Lefty* (1935), in which the auditorium was assumed to be the meeting hall for a group of taxi drivers at a union meeting, with the audience the potential strikers and actors spotted throughout the house to increase the feeling of audience participation.

Clark's last 1935 show was the most successful, Sidney Kingley's *Dead End*, about the deleterious effects of New York's slums, which ran

*"They were always giving me lines like 'You woman, you'. In The Very Thought of You I had to bark like a dog when I saw a girl'*

for two years. Clark then toured in several plays, including the Group Theatre's biggest success, Odets' *Golden Boy*, until being called to Hollywood in 1941 to act in promotional films being made by the US Army.

Bit parts in movies followed, including *The Glass Key*, *Wake Island* and *Pride of the Yankees* (all 1942), and at Warner's the Bogart war film *Action in the North Atlantic* (1943). Warner's then offered him a contract, and with the new name of Dane Clark he was given a featured role in *Destination Tokyo* (1943), the first of two films he made with Garfield (who was also a graduate of the Group Theatre). The story of a submarine crew on combat duty featured Clark as Tin Can, most aggressive of the crew members.

Clark then settled into a run of girl-chasing "best buddy" roles, portraying the soldier friend of Dennis Morgan in *The Very Thought of You* (1944). Robert Hutton's soldier pal in *Hollywood Canteen* (1944), and a wounded soldier who befriends a blinded marine (Garfield) at a military hospital in *Pride of the Marines* (1945). His role in the all-star *Hollywood Canteen* is remembered for the moment when he says to the girl with whom he is dancing, "You know, you're a dead ringer for Joan Crawford." When she replies, "Don't look now, but I am Joan Crawford," Clark promptly faints.

He began to tire of such type-casting, though, and had the first of several battles with the studio head Jack Warner for better roles and more pay. "They were always giving me lines like 'You woman, you,'" he said later. "They had me as a teenage soldier back from the Pacific or some place. In *The Very Thought of You* I had to bark like a dog when I saw a girl. I ask you, how can you be subtle - how can you underplay when you're making sounds like a dog?"

After *A Stolen Life* (1946), in which as a consistently bad-tempered painter he woos Bette Davis with the line, "Man eats woman and woman eats man; that's basic", he was given his first starring role in *Her Kind of Man* (1946), a halfhearted attempt by the studio to recapture the glory of their earlier gangster films, in which Clark, as a newspaper man, gets Janis Paige, a night-club singer, out of the clutches of the gangster Zachary Scott. *Whiplash* (1948) was similar, only this time Clark was a painter rescuing Alexis Smith from Scott.

Before this, Clark had his best role at Warner's, as a bitter convict who escapes from a chain-gang and is sheltered by an introverted farm girl (Ida Lupino) in *Deep Valley* (1947). Because of a set builders' strike at the studio, the whole film was made on location in Big Sur and Big Bear, California, and its director Jean Negulesco later recounted that the long period away from the studio led Clark and Lupino to have a passionate affair which, he said, ended as quickly as it began once the couple returned to their normal life style.



Clark with Lita Milan on location for the 1955 film *The Toughest Man Alive*

Clark was then borrowed by Republic for *Moonrise* (1948). The story of a social outcast on the run after an accidental killing was treated with lyrical romanticism, and the offbeat teaming of the grim Clark and ethereal Gail Russell as his girlfriend gave the film extra piquancy. Clark finished his Warner contract with two minor films, *Barriocade* (1950), in which he beat Raymond Massey, a sadistic mine-owner, to death, and a mystery story, *Backfire* (1950).

The following year Clark came to England to star with Margaret Lockwood in Roy Baker's comedy-thriller *Highly Dangerous*. In this fanciful tale of an automologist (Lockwood) on a government spy assignment who is given a truth drug by the

enemy under which she imagines herself as her favourite Dick Barton-like radio character and saves the day with the aid of an American reporter (Clark), the actor revealed an unexpectedly droll sense of humour. In 1954 he co-produced and starred in the story of the Harlem Globetrotters, *Go Man Go*.

A consistent performer on radio throughout his career, Clark was also a television pioneer, appearing in a Chevrolet Tele-Theatre episode in 1949. He went on to appear in dozens of television shows and starred in two series, *Wire Service* (1956-57) as a reporter, and *Bold Venture* (1957), which he described at the time as "about an adventure-bent skipper of a small Caribbean boat-for-hire. Eugene O'Neill this ain't."

Television movies in which he appeared included *Say Goodbye, Maggie Cole* (1975), the last film made by Susan Hayward, and from 1974 until 1978 he had a regular role on the series *Police Story*. Clark returned to Broadway in the Sixties as replacement lead in *Tchin Tchin* and *A Thousand Clowns*. Late in that decade his wife of many years, Margot Yoder, died, and in 1972 he married a young stockbroker, Geraldine Frank.

TOM VALLANCE

Bernard Zanville (Dane Clark), actor: born New York 18 February 1913; married first Margot Yoder (deceased), second 1972 Geraldine Frank; died Santa Monica, California 11 September 1998.





Littlewood, left, with John Bradbury (viola), Basil Howitt (cello) and Keith Jones (piano) at Chetham's, 1957

## Gerald Littlewood

ANY FINAL assessment of how Humphrey Chetham's Bluecoat foundation of 1653 grew by 1969 to be Britain's foremost specialist school of music, Chetham's, will surely acknowledge Gerald Littlewood's role as having been seminal. His appointment as resident arts and crafts master in 1949, fresh from Loughborough Training College, will be seen as a decisive step in a remarkable evolution.

His arrival in Manchester happily coincided with the headmastership of the dedicated and visionary Harry Vickers. Through the Fifties and Sixties they managed an impressive succession of educational advances in which music always featured strongly. Not least of these was the grant-aid agreement with the neighbouring Manchester Cathedral, which introduced able choristers to Chetham's and involved the creative collaboration of the cathedral's organist Norman Cocker.

Littlewood immediately found ways of harnessing the budding expertise of these able youngsters in his mission to create a musical culture in which all

could participate and from which a fine orchestra and choir would emerge. Throughout this period a packed Free Trade Hall would resound each October to the music of more than a hundred Littlewood-trained children, many of whose instruments Littlewood had either made or repaired and who played music a good deal of which Norman Cocker had been encouraged either to compose or arrange.

It is difficult to believe the kind of schoolmastering of those early days. As one of only three resident masters Littlewood would call school reveille at 6.15am, have an orchestra practice under way by seven and, between breakfast and school, rehearse a choir of 30. Typically, his daily teaching programme included, in addition to his specialist art and crafts and his adopted music, English, Religious Instruction and PE. He also provided pastoral guidance, found time for chamber music, stage- and puppet-construction and wine-making. He might then spend the evening taking pupils on a lecture recital in aid of school instruments.

His instrument-making began in earnest when, in the mid-Sixties, he found a wealth of discarded seasoned sycamore in the ancient school laundry. Several Tervis model violas emerged which still speak with a strong, warm orchestral voice. His later instruments, made in a zesty experimental period after his retirement from Chetham's, were less likely to raise an eyebrow amongst chamber music players.

During his happy retirement with his wife Audrey and daughter Annie in North Wales, he threw himself into the life of the church and community, carving elegant choir-stalls, encouraging young people in church music, teaching string-playing with freshness and enthusiasm in a local school, singing light opera and performing salon music on the local pier pavilion. During the last two years, however, cancer took its toll.

Littlewood's generosity to all whom he befriended is legendary. He forgot none of the boys, and later girls, who came under his influence at Chetham's, would recount their memorable es-

capades and follow their progress with interest. A Lancashire Grammar School lad from Audenshaw, son of a policeman, he was at home with ordinary folk, loving the homely verse of the Lancashire dialect poet Edwin Waugh. He was less at home amongst professional musicians and gave pretentiousness short shrift.

Gerald Littlewood made things happen in the days before inspired amateurism became unfashionable, subsequently unacceptable. The heart of his significant contribution to Chetham's was to envisage, foster and sustain the ideal of a family community where music mattered and from which excellence could grow. Without his eclectic genius, Chetham's School of Music could not have gone on to develop its very special excellence.

KEITH JONES

Gerald Littlewood, music teacher, born Audenshaw, Lancashire 7 September 1927; married (one daughter, one stepson); died Old Colwyn, Chwyd 1 September 1998.

## MYTHOLOGICAL NOTES

ALAN F. ALFORD

## Henny-Penny discovers Atlantis

IN THE English fairy tale, Henny-Penny was hit on the head by a falling object, and then set off with Cocker-Locky, Ducky-Daddles, and the rest of the tongue-twisting farmyard crew, to warn the king that "the sky's a-going to fall". What was the reason for this paranoid behaviour? Surprisingly, the answer can be found in the famous legend of the lost island of Atlantis.

When the Greek philosopher Plato described Atlantis as an "island" which was struck by an earthquake and sank into the sea, he inspired countless generations of explorers to search the deepest oceans and furthestmost corners of the Earth for the remnants of a lost civilisation. However, these expeditions were wild-goose chases, because the Egyptians - the source of Plato's Atlantis legend - firmly believed that the lost island was up in the sky.

It was a central tenet of ancient Egyptian religion that the sky had fallen to Earth on more than one occasion. The oldest of these fallen sky-deities was Geb, who was said to have laid a Great Egg out of which emerged the phoenix with a blinding flash of light. Geb then let out a piercing scream and fell to the Earth's surface, carrying out "construction work" in "millions of places".

Another fallen god was Osiris, who was born in the sky but was then "laid low" by the evil god Seth. Osiris was said to have "split open" the Earth, and come to rest in the deep dark caverns of the underworld. The Egyptians believed that the gods had descended to the Earth from a place in the sky, known variously as the "Homeland of the Primeval Ones", the "eastern Horizon of Heaven" or the "Mountain-Land of the God". But underlying all of these epithets was the image of an island floating in an infinite abyss of primeval waters, or Space.

How did this island come to be lost? The Egyptians claimed that Osiris had drowned (compare the sinking of Atlantis), but they also said that Osiris had been "disembodied", i.e. chopped into pieces - a close parallel to the "earthquake" which destroyed Atlantis.

The myth of the sky falling to Earth reflected an Egyptian belief in a catastrophic "act of creation", a day when the sky-goddess Nut gave birth to her



Why did Atlas fail to withstand the sky?

"children of chaos" and the sky became "choked and stifled". The Earth was said to have become an "Island of Fire" as a result of impacts from heaven.

Was ancient Egyptian religion inspired by a meteorite which fell from the asteroid belt? The Egyptians believed that asteroids and meteorites were parts of the body of their sky-deity, who had been dismembered. Remarkably, this sky-deity was described in the same terms as used for the Earth herself - an island, a mountain, a throne, and a horizon. In other words, the Egyptians believed that their "God" was a planet.

The same idea is found in depictions of the god Atlas, supposedly the first king of Atlantis, who was shown supporting the heavens in the form of a planetary globe. The Greek meaning of his name tells us that Atlas failed to withstand the sky, which came crashing down to the Earth.

Atlantis was thus conceived as a planet which suffered a catastrophe and sank into the waters of space. But might there be a reality behind this myth? The notion that one or more planets have actually exploded in our solar system is not without its supporters in the science of astronomy. If their predictions concerning the explosive origins of asteroids and comets are proved correct, the ancient Egyptian myths will become due for a re-assessment. And Henny-Penny won't be the only one to wake up with a sore head.

Alan F. Alford is the author of *The Phoenix Solution: secrets of a lost civilisation* (Hodder & Stoughton, £18.99).

## On a walkabout with Mrs Thatcher

HOPES THAT Mrs Thatcher might go walkabout in the lower depths of the other Britain were quickly dashed. Her visits to the deprived urban areas of the country have been planned as sunrise tours.

Everything she saw was new and nascent, green-site or high-tech. If by inner city you mean Telford or Brixton, this was more like a day in the country.

Teeside is a struggling conurbation of small cities or towns loosely tied together by motorways. Rain or smog might have been more appropriate but, in defiance of the weather forecasts, the sun shone brightly all day long and the ICI chemical works was on its best behaviour, emitting picturesque white smoke into a blue sky.

We began at a derelict and deserted 75-acre site, trapped in the bed of the River Tees where a foundry had once stood, employing in its heyday 1,000 men. Some 50,000 jobs have gone from Teesside in the Thatcher years and the local unemployment rate in Middlesbrough is 28 per cent.

The Prime Minister alighted from her Daimler and stepped into sensible shoes in which to pick her way through the potholes and the rubble.

She was told how the newly formed Teesside Development Corporation planned to divert the waters of the Tees, link the site by bridge to Stockton and build some 500 houses around a marine development. In two years she would see the place transformed.

The Prime Minister posed for pictures in the middle of this large empty space, presiding - they might suggest - over a scene of desolation of her own making.

## THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE

17 SEPTEMBER 1987

*The Prime Minister was captured yesterday in an arresting image - back to camera on a wasteland in Middlesbrough. Peter Jenkins reports*

At the request of cameramen she stalked off alone into the middle distance, and back again. Then she began preaching in the wilderness. She preached the gospel of enterprise as the only means to salvation and regeneration. The North, she said, had been built by the enterprise of its people and that was how it would be rebuilt. There was no other way.

Harold Macmillan, who in the Thirties had sat for Stockton just across the river, had believed there was a "middle way". But not this Prime Minister. Where was the money, reporters wanted to know. "You keep asking me facile questions," she complained.

Next stop was the Cadcam centre, a high-tech industrial estate. Cadcam stands for Computer-Aided Design, Computer-Aided Management. Here she preached her gospel of co-operation between government, local authority and private enterprise.

Stuart Bell, the Middlesbrough MP, had shown up, not to protest but to welcome her

coming. But she was wrong, if she thought she couldn't work with Labour councils. "Our councils are moderate, traditional Labour councils," he said. They were sensible people yet they were rate-capped and had no money to repair the deteriorating housing stock.

Listening to Mrs Thatcher extol the virtues of enterprise was one of its northern exemplars. This was John Hall, the Northumberland miner's son who built the great Metrocentre in Gateshead, the largest supermarket complex in Europe. Now he has bought Lord Londonderry's seat, Wynyard Hall, and the 5,000 acres that go with it. Here, in the cause of provincial regeneration, he plans to create what he calls a "centre of excellence". A business park will be provided with three golf courses, a five-star hotel, pleasant and picturesque shooting facilities. Then he'll sell off two-acre plots to businessmen to live like country gentlemen. "It's the life style they want," he said. "We're not peasants up here. You'll have to change your bloody image of us."

Round the corner some real people had congregated to greet the Prime Minister, the first she had encountered all day. Some cheered, some booed. A man with a megaphone called out: "Why has she rate-capped the council? Why won't she give us some money to build homes like the ones we have just seen? They are the answers we want from her."

Mrs Thatcher did not stop to tell him to please stop asking facile questions. She said nothing.

From *The Independent*, Thursday 17 September 1987

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### DEATHS

WALKER, A.S. (Johnny), aged 88, died peacefully at home 13 September. Funeral at Mortlake Crematorium 1pm Wednesday 23 September and afterwards at 3 Sandstone, Kent Road, TW9 3JJ. Donations if wished may be sent to Princess Alice Hospice c/o The Leasack Centre, Kingston Hospital, Galwarthy Road, Kingston KT5 7QS.

#### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Prince Edward, Patron, Ocean Youth Club, attends the Southampton Boat Show. The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, Royal Anthropological Institute, opens the Sixth International Festival of Ethnographic Film. Goldsmiths' College, London SE14.

#### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

#### BIRTHDAYS

Professor Sir Donald Acheson, former Chief Medical Officer, Departments of Health and of Social Security, 67; Miss Anne Bancroft, actress, 67; The Right Rev Timothy Eavin, former Bishop of Portsmouth, 63; Mr David Bintlcy, choreographer, 41; Professor Alice Broers, Vice-President, Cambridge University, 60; Mr Russell Brown MP, 47; Marshal of the RAF Lord Craig of Radley, 69; Mr Donald Cruickshank, Director-General, Ofel, 66; General Sir Kenneth Darling, former Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, Northern Europe, 65; Miss Jennifer Dickson, artist and photographer, 62; Mr Bernard Everett, ambassador to Mozambique, 55; Sir Desmond Fennell, former High Court judge, 65; Mr Gwyn Francis, former Director-General, Forestry Commission, 68; Sir Richard Gaskell, former President, Law Society, 62; Professor Sir John Hale, historian, 75; Miss Angela Heylin, chairman, Charles Barker, 55; Mr Damon Hill, racing driver, 36; Mr Michael Jack MP, 52; Miss Tessa Jowell MP, Minister for Public Health, 51; Mr Desmond Lynam, journalist and broadcaster, 56; Mr Roddy McDowell, actor, 70; Mr Reginald Marsh, actor, 72; Mr Brian Matthews, radio presenter, 70; Mr Stirling Moss, racing driver, 69; Sir Paul Newall, former Lord Mayor of London, 64; Mr Andrew Reed MP, 34; Miss Dinah Sheridan, actress, 78; Mr Colin Short, chairman, United Biscuits, 64; Miss Mary Stewart (Lady Stewart), historical

novelist, 82; Sir Jack Stewart-Clark, MEP, 69; Miss Karen Straker, show-jumper, 34; Sir Jeremy Sullivan, High Court judge, 53; Miss Helen Vinson, actress, 91; Dr Elizabeth Wilkinson, former Professor of German, University College London, 89.

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Pope Paul V. 1582; Francisco Gomez de Quevedo y Villegas, poet and satirist, 1590; Samuel Proust, water-colour painter, 1783; Edward William Lane, translator of *The Thousand and One Nights*, 1801; William Carlos Williams, poet, 1883; Charles Tomlinson Griffes, composer, 1884; Sir Francis Charles Chichester, yachtsman and aviator, 1901; Sir Frederick Ashton, choreographer, 1904; Dolores Costello, actress, 1906.

Deaths: Tobias George Smollett, novelist, 1771; Alfred Victor, Comte de Vigny, poet, 1863; Walter Savage Landor, writer, 1864; Eugene-Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc, Gothic architect, 1872; Ethel Mary Dell (Mrs G.T. Savage), romantic novelist, 1839; Ruth Benedict, anthropologist, 1948; Dame Lilian Brathwaite, actress, 1948; Friedrich Adolf Paneth, chemist, 1938; Katherine Anne Porter, novelist, 1980; Professor Sir Karl Raimund Popper, philosopher, 1994.

On this day: Edinburgh was occupied by the Jacobites under the Young Pretender, 1745; the Constitution of the United States of America

was signed, 1787; the frigates *Briton* and *Tagus*, under Sir Thomas Staines and Captain Phipps, touched at Pitcairn Island in the Pacific, and found the descendants of the *Bounty* mutineers, 1814; an English eccentric announced in a San Francisco newspaper that he had become Norton I, Emperor of America, 1858; the indecisive Battle of Antietam (American Civil War) was fought, 1862; the Mont Cenis railway tunnel, Switzerland, opened, 1871; the Commonwealth of Australia was proclaimed, 1900; the opera *Viktorina* and *Her Hussar* were performed in London for the first time, 1931; the first long-playing records were demonstrated in New York, but the venture failed, 1931; Poland was invaded by the Soviet Union, 1939; the 1st British Airborne Division landed at Arnhem, 1944; the first meeting took place of the North Atlantic Treaty Council, 1949; Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, North and South Korea, the Marshall Islands and Micronesia were admitted to the United Nations, 1981.

Today is the Feast Day of St Columba of Cordova, St Francis of Camerosso, St Hildegard, St Lambert of Maastricht, St Peter Arbues, St Robert Bellarmine, St Salyrus of Milan, Saints Socrates and Stephen and St Theodora.

#### LECTURES

National Gallery: Jonathan Miller, "Reflections (iii): a discussion of the exhibition", 1pm. British Museum: Kim Sloan, "R.W. Lloyd's Turner Water-

colours: in pursuit of perfection", 11.30am. Victoria and Albert Museum: Philippa Barton, "Baroque and Rococo Ornament", 2pm. National Portrait Gallery: Brian Louis Pearce, "Algeron Charles Swinburne", 1.10pm. Wallace Collection: Peter Hughes, "French 18th-Century Filing Cabinets", 1pm.

#### LADY CAIRNCROSS

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mary Frances Cairncross will be held in the Chapel of St Peter's College, Oxford, on Saturday 26 September 1998 at 3pm, followed by tea in the Hall.

#### DINNERS

British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing: The Annual Dinner of the 37th British Conference of Non-Destructive Testing was held yesterday evening at the Royal Station Hotel, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Mr M.R. Dawson, President of the British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing, presided. Mr B. Larsen, President of the Danish Society for Non-Destructive Testing, was the speaker. The following prizes and awards were presented:

1997 Roy Sharpe Prize: Dr C.B. Scruby (AEA Technology). John Greenwood (AEA Technology). Robert Banks, Roger Parson and Professor Gordon Hayward (Strathclyde University). Ron Haineslaw Award: Tony Wainwright, Bob Chapman and Graham Woodcock (Quicker Electric). Ian Munro and George Georgiou (TWI). T&L Cole Award: British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing, West of England Branch. Tony Langer Award: British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing, London & Home Counties Branch.

HOW LONG does it take for a word to receive official recognition? For some time, those hired on a short-term contract to augment full-time workers in an office have been in the habit of referring to these manservants and invariably lower-paid colleagues as "permies". It is in particular usage

#### WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE permie, n.

among those called in at increasingly high rates to avert disasters with computer systems come the year 2000.

As such, it now figures in an entertaining first novel, *Stickleback*, by John McCabe, whose plot goes wonky towards the end. His ears are closer to the ground than that of the compilers of that recent, awfully vulgar new Oxford dictionary. Will its rivals rush to fill this gap?







# Tyranny of the snappers

Forcing us to stand unnaturally near each other and then shout cheerily in unison – who could be worse than the family photographer? By Ann Treneman

I once met a woman named Mary Kaye Lee who spent a great deal of time and effort photographing a teddy bear named Harvey. This, evidently, is not considered all that strange a thing to do in certain circles. Mary Kaye even had a how-to column on the subject in a teddy bear magazine published in deepest Torridge. Harvey was a very photogenic kind of bear, she explained, as we flipped through the "family" album chronicling their trip on board the Orient Express.

Harv, it must be said, does not look all that thrilled. In fact, his expression remains unchanged throughout the trip. I am sure he is now secretly plotting a way to get Boots to excise him altogether. Now, I know that teddy bears are not real, but I do know how he feels. My idea of a good family photo is one without any humans at all. I have never achieved this – though Boots may now have provided the way forward – because everyone else in my extended family is addicted to taking photographs of one another at every opportunity.

No event, no meal, no sunset, no motorway service station is too insignificant to chronicle. In this world, all of life is measured in Kodak moments, every one of which is a potential memory to treasure. Or not, as the case inevitably is. This is fam-

ily photo fetish syndrome at its worst and Harv and I are not the only victims. "Yes, isn't it terrible?" says a someone to whom I mention the subject. "There are religious that won't have their picture taken because they believe they are unfit images, or something. I think that's great. They've released themselves from the tyranny of the photo!"

It is not something I can talk to

*No event, no meal, no motorway service station is too insignificant. All of life is measured in Kodak moments*

my mother about. That is because she is too busy shouting "Cheese!" at any lens that looks friendly. Do you recognise this scene? "Say cheese!" shouts someone I am related to in yet another restaurant. We are gathered in what I now think of as the Cheese Position. This is when we all lean forward, elbows on table and faces dangerously close to the debris that was our meal. We all then do

shout "Cheese!" and, if we are lucky, the flash goes off, blinding everyone else. If we are unlucky, the flash fails. This is a trigger for the family to shout instructions. The shot is then lined up again – with great flapping of arms and instructions to "Lean in closer!" – and we repeat the "Cheese!" ritual. Only then does the picture actually get taken.

But it is not over yet. This is because we have to do it all again to fulfil the universal rule that one photo is never enough and that the second photo must include the person who took the first photo. Usually a stranger is approached. This can be the waitress or even another diner. In either case, inevitably, the camera does not work. Cue repeat of "Cheese!" scene combined with "Flash doesn't work" shouting scene. Finally, it is finished and then everyone beams at each other and chatters away as if we were G7 leaders posing in front of the Alps.

But why? My first thought was that this syndrome must be genetic because, well, almost everything is these days. It's certainly true in my family's case. My grandfather was obsessed and there is at least one photograph of every meal he ever ate involving more than two people. My mother has collected a roomful of the things and now my sisters are succumbing. By the way, if you think you have escaped, just wait



Just say cheese! There is no humiliation too small for an obsessive family photographer to impose on his victim John Lawrence

until you hit 40. That is when psychologists say that most of us start to believe that we are going to die one day and that, in the meantime, it couldn't hurt to compile some evidence of our existence. Certainly, I notice that my sister, who has just turned 40, has now started accosting strangers on near deserted beaches. "Can you take our photo?" she asks a person who is obviously trying to have a nervous breakdown with a little quiet dignity. "Of course not," they lie (cue "Cheese!" scene).

A nightmare and, evidently, one that will never end. "Clearly you are either the kind of family which lives or the kind which takes photographs," says social psychologist

Halla Beloff from Edinburgh. Her theory is that people can take pictures in order to control a situation. "It can be very oppressive," she says. I think "very" might be putting it mildly. The experienced photo controller can turn the whole thing into a full-time occupation that dominates every minute of the day. But not, of course, if they forget the camera. That's why they hyperventilate if the thing gets left behind. "Oh no! We'll have to go back!" they cry. "Why?" you ask. "Because we will want to remember this!"

But why would anyone want to remember a day dominated by a person taking lots of pictures while giving a running commentary on how

many frames are left. Upon picking the photos up, the controller will then edit out the ones that make him or her look bad. Of course, the ones that make you look like a red-eyed mutant drunk having a bad hair life are kept in and sometimes even exclaimed over ("Not one of your best"). The ritual must be finished off by the controller selecting which photographs can enter the album.

Thus is family history made. Within a relatively brief period of time, the family starts to believe the album version of history. The first way to subvert this is to get Boots to take all the people out. But if you cannot get your hands on the negatives per se, find the cupboard that

holds all the photos that were not chosen and in which everyone looks like aliens and/or Darwin rejects. Then secretly start to repatriate these to the album.

Or why not try a spot of reminiscence therapy? I discover this delightful idea from Simon Biggs, a reader in social gerontology at Keele University who did his PhD on the related subject of videos. Evidently you use a photograph to get people talking about what really happened that day. Biggs says that they use this a lot when trying to cut through the official propaganda. Dangerous stuff, but then families are full of that. Especially when they are addicted to "Cheese!"

# Troubled times for the Gazza of the green

Football has long been known for its bad boys. But bowls? Down in Torquay they've never seen anything like Griff Sanders. By Alex Hayes

Not since a gentleman by the name of Basil Fawley ran a guest house there has Torquay witnessed drama on this scale. Last week, the Devon County Bowls Association handed Griff Sanders, the self-proclaimed "bad-boy of bowling", an unprecedented 10-year ban from the sport for denouncing a senior county official as a "tosser". And you thought bowls was boring.

The decision is causing quite a stir in Torquay. "Every game has a code of conduct, and he has undeniably broken that code," admits Alan Horwell, President of the local Kings Bowling Club in Torquay. "Perhaps he needed to have a stick waved at him to be brought back into line. But 10 years? Most bowls players around here think the ban is far too draconian. He's hardly a monster."

As I sit in Sanders' bed-sit sipping a cup of tea, I fail to detect any wickedness in the man. With long hair, a scruffy appearance and a thick Devon accent, he may not look and sound like the archetypal bowls player, but then again who would want to?

"Nah, I'm not a monster," he says. "He [Mr Smerdon, the secretary of the Devon County Bowling Association] doesn't like

me. He's made that clear and I've got no power over the man. I called him a tosser, and I'm proud of the thing I said. I really wanted to let him know what he is."

How does such a sedate game manage to arouse such passions? "I should be in Kuala Lumpur now, playing in the Commonwealth Games. Not only that, but I should have been playing for England years ago. Smerdon is the Devon secretary. If I don't get picked for Devon, I can't play for England. Because I'm a bit rebellious and I've got long hair and always say my bit, he doesn't like it because he's jealous."

Sanders started playing bowls with his grandparents when he was 11. By the time he was 16, he was regularly beating far more experienced and senior players. "I'm bound to upset them. Think about it. I'm not just winning, I'm entertaining as well. Years ago, most people would watch snooker because Alex Higgins and Jimmy White were characters and that. Otherwise, snooker's really boring to watch. Well, it's the same with bowls. But I guarantee you that if I was on TV, even if I lost the first round, the sponsors would want me back. I'm unique. I've been told that."

Sanders has described himself as the



Griff Sanders (front) has a style all his own

Susannah Binney

John McEnroe of bowling. But we're talking bowls here; it's hardly pulse-racing stuff, is it? Besides, if you hurried a bowling ball at the ground in rage you'd just break your foot. "Look," says the Gazza of the green, "bowls is crap to watch but when you start playing, it becomes really addictive. It's like golf: you end up playing against yourself. You get a wood close to the jack, and you just want to get the next wood even closer."

"If you don't believe me, let's go and have a game." We are on the local green ready for battle. As I misjudge the distance and angle of my first delivery, I try to divert his, and the onlookers', attention with a question. "Why is it that so few young people play, and even fewer would want to associate themselves with the game?"

"That's not true," replies Sanders. "More and more kids are playing. I mean, I'm the kind of guy to raise the profile of the sport and encourage different people to play. Once they try it, they're hooked."

"Really?" I casually retrieve my wood from the adjacent green. "Yeah," he says. "I've took gangsters out that I know who wouldn't dream of going near a bowling green to spoil their street cred sort of thing."

But after a game, they're begging me to take them down again."

Torquay's meanest gangsters playing bowls. Mr Tarantino should know about this. So is Griff Sanders entirely blameless for his current predicament?

"No, it's true, I've had warnings in the past. Like the time I said 'fuck' for playing a bad shot and a woman complained. Or when I pretended to be drunk during a tournament – I was only joking though. Anyway, I apologised to the committee after the incident. But as far as calling John Smerdon a tosser, though, there's no way on this earth that I'm going to say sorry."

## YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS

We are still awaiting Bob Geldof's answers. While he is grappling with your questions, please send any you would like to put to Melvyn Bragg to: You Ask The Questions, Features Dept, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; by fax on 0171-293 2182; or e-mail them to: yourquestions@independent.co.uk by lunchtime on Friday, 18 September.

THE INDEPENDENT

## Travel to Paris free on Eurostar

The Independent on Sunday has chartered an entire Eurostar train to take readers to Paris. To win a free seat for you and a partner, simply collect four tokens from The Independent/The Independent on Sunday and enter your name in a draw. The prize is a round-trip ticket to Paris (the choice of return journey is yours). There are no restrictions on the prize. The prize is valid for travel to Paris or Brussels.

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The prize winners will receive their prize details by 20th October 1998. Each winner and guest must travel together on the same train and on the same date (both outbound and return journeys). Prize winners will receive their prize details by 20th November 1998. No changes can be made to bookings. Eurostar tickets are not transferable or exchangeable for cash or credit alternatives. The closing date by which all entries must be received is Monday 5th October. The prize winners and runners up will be announced on 12th October.

For any costs, claims, damages or loss occasioned by any failure, however caused, to fulfil the terms of this promotion, prize winners are required to take out adequate insurance to cover any cancellation, delay, or any loss which may be occasioned by such failure. The prize tickets may not be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Eurostar tickets are not transferable or exchangeable for cash or credit alternatives. The closing date by which all entries must be received is Monday 5th October. The prize winners and runners up will be announced on 12th October.

Independent, any London and Continental Railways Limited. Company's agents and members of their families and households are not eligible to enter. The Editor's decision is final. There is a limit of one entry per household each application must include four tokens, including one from the Independent on Sunday. No purchase necessary. Missing tokens can be obtained by a request. In writing, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope, specifying the number of tokens or application forms will not be accepted. The closing date by which all entries must be received is Monday 5th October. The prize winners and runners up will be announced on 12th October.



# Something funny's going on

Where is the new generation of female stand-up comics? Probably backstage – and not telling the jokes, but organising them. They are now surviving, even thriving, in the macho business of comedy by becoming men's managers. By Veronica Lee

I was a Perrier Comedy Award judge last month and sat through dozens of acts from the inspired to the dire. Depressingly, there wasn't a single female up for serious consideration in either the main awards, or even among the newcomers. Where are the Jo Brands, the Jenny Eclair and the Caroline Dayhermes of the current stand-up generation, who lift the lid on the female psyche or offer an alternative to male comics talking about themselves? But perhaps I was looking in the wrong place for comedic talent. Remarkably, of the 10 acts on the two shortlists, eight are managed by women. While women may be taking a rest from performing, where is no shortage of them behind the scenes.

Not long ago, one would have expected the shortlists to be dominated by acts managed by Avalon or Stone Joranger, two high-profile, highly visible comedy management/promotion companies run by go-getting young men. But this year the distaff side

appears to have taken over. Co-Dawn Sedgwick is manager of Perrier winner Tommy Tiernan, defector Byrne and Ardal O'Hanlon. Her background is in television. A Tiernan describes her as "a safe pair of hands", which is perhaps reflected in her slightly motherly *mien*. She

taunts: "It's a growing area for women where they are taken seriously. The entertainment industry is still male-dominated, but there is now a wigeneration who have moved on to a lion's level and I hope it will have a menomack on effect in performing." But why has a generation of women comics been lost? "Sadly,"

Blaise says, "lot of women feel that they have to do bog-standard 'women's' material, which often doesn't work, all airy or unfair. If a woman does herself about sanitary products people other turned off, but a man talking about sex or football is fine. It's hard from a performer's point of view in which she has to come up with something very different to make an impact because they are compared unfavourably with men. And stand-up is tough – you really have to show your mettle."

Vivienne Smith, the vivacious and forthright ex-publicity agent for the Gilded Balloon in Edinburgh and now manager of Perrier nominee Ed Byrne, Michael Smiley and IT Marcus Brigstocke, has a more pragmatic explanation for the lack of young female talent. "Women are much more sensible than men at an early age, so I guess they're off learning to be lawyers and doctors rather



Top, Caroline Aherne, jobbing stand-up turned TV personality; above, 1995 Perrier winner Jenny Eclair; right, Vivienne Smith and Dawn Sedgwick – respectively agent and manager on the comedy circuit. Neville Elder/UPPA/SDR

than spending time in smoky clubs. But it's true that a lot of young guys like the rock'n'roll image of comedy today, and they certainly have more role models for getting up and performing." The 1995 Perrier winner Jenny Eclair believes that the world of stand-up, with its aggressively drink-soaked, heckling audiences, is so antithetical to women that she does not wonder that so few want to do it. "I always say that women have more sense," she says. "It's a vaguely masochistic thing to do."

But she wishes that women had more staying power, or worked harder to get it right. "There's a generation of women coming up to 30 who are missing or who have simply given up. I met one recently who had dropped out and I asked her why. She said, 'My boyfriend left me and I couldn't cope.' I could have shaken her. Women are emotionally frail about it."

She puts this down to differences in the male and female psyche. "Men start practising being funny early on – it's the way parents treat them. With girls, it's 'Don't be too loud.' Men don't communicate with each other with any depth – they try to make each other laugh instead. Women share secrets."

Eclair thinks the only way a woman can survive in such a tough business is by assuming a stage persona vastly different to her own. So different is the off-duty Eclair from the onstage one that she has never allowed her partner, father of their young daughter, to see her live act. Eclair says the relationship would be over if he saw her vulgar, foul-mouthed, horny creation in full flow.

Vivienne Smith is not convinced by the assumed persona argument. "Well, there's Rhona Cameron and Donna McPhail for a start. But don't all performers have to adopt

a stage persona? Otherwise, it's just Joe Bloggs making an after-dinner speech at the Rotary club."

But it is true that more female stand-ups than men do "acts" rather than "burns" as themselves. Caroline Aherne and Brenda Gilhooley were jobbing stand-ups till they became, respectively, Mrs Merton and Gayle Tuesday, and both shot to television fame overnight.

Smith concedes that comedy is largely a male world. "As much as any middle-class sport can be considered macho," she says drily. "It is a male-dominated and competitive business but that's not confined to comedy. I don't know to whose benefit that kind of approach is. I believe you are only as good as your clients, and you should try to do your work with a certain amount of decorum and discretion."

Women in management can also offer a broader view. As Dawn Sedgwick says, "Most of our comedians are male and we can offer a female perspective on their material."

And Lisa White, of comedy agents Off The Kerk, was responsible for discovering two truly original talents to come through this year – Perrier nominee Peter Kay and the short-listed newcomer Paul Foot, both of whom have an appeal to female audiences that may have been lost on those managers who line up one laddish comic after another with beer, footy and fart jokes.

Women in comedy management tend to work with smaller teams. For Vivienne Smith this is a deliberate policy formed from previous experience. "When I worked in a large management company the focus wasn't there. It was a numbers game – how much money has that client done this week? Not much, so shove them aside and concentrate on this one who's doing really well

at the moment." Dawn Sedgwick, too, believes comedy management should be client-centred. "We have a strong, small clientele because we take the long view of their careers and work them hard across the board, to encourage them as writers and TV performers in addition to doing stand-up. I think the larger companies are perhaps more interested in getting their own name forward rather than their artists'. We don't have that ego working."

From a purely financial point of view, too, a quiet but effective management beaver quietly away on comics' behalf pays other rewards. As one experienced Edinburgh observer put it: "You couldn't move up there without seeing an Avalon or Stone Ranger logo, bag or poster. You can bet every penny of that comes out of the artists' fees."

But while we can applaud the work female managements are

doing for male comics, all is not lost on the women comics front. Channel 4, organisers of newcomers' award So You Think You're Funny?, were delighted by the strong showing of young women stand-ups in this year's competition and expect those such as Caroline Quinlan, Nadine Leonard and Sheba Moeser to reach the mainstream within a couple of years.

Eclair thinks a challenge lies ahead. "There is a modern wave of comedy that is surreal, whereas women tend to be emotional gut-spillers and that sort of thing is now considered old hat, too. It's going to be interesting to see if the new generation of young female comics are going to get away from their genitalia and their age and their looks and compete with the boys on that new front." In the meantime, though, look for the women backstage rather than on it.

## Red is the colour, bloodless the sound

REPUBLICA'S SAFFRON has courted more than her fair share of controversy, though until recently it has been for little more than her lurid hair-do. Last year, she advised Janet Jackson to "Ave a word with yourself, love" after she appeared on stage with red streaks in her hair, while Lene from Scandinavian pop sensation Aqua was similarly cut down to size after sporting a blood-red baret.

To be fair, Republica have certainly made it musically in the US, providing a riotous soundtrack to frat-house parties

and even getting played on *Baywatch* from time-to-time. But they have found it harder to sustain a successful pop presence on these shores. The London trio first appeared late in 1996, their raucous anthem, "Ready To Go", having a degree of success, but were soon eclipsed by the success of their smarter counterparts, Garbage. Other jarringly similar singles have come and gone, but to no great effect.

It is Saffron's cockney brass, more than anything else, that has sustained her flourishing media persona,

having secured her a stream of soundbites in the style of regular slots on pop discussion programmes. While the girls bill and coo over her luscious locks, the boys slaver at her glittering eyes, tight trousers and sex-kitten sneer.

And the boys were certainly out in force at last night's

show. Row upon row of sweaty, hormone-added disciples packed the front, crumpling submissively under Saffron's steely gaze. The band opened with the raucous "Drop Dead Gorgeous" that had the lads wailing incoherently and frothing at the mouth. This was later followed by the new single "From Rush Hour With Love", a pouty, shouty, power-pop number that is bursting with adolescent attitude, though bears little relation to the film upon which it is based.

While Republica are in possession of an irresistible allure

and a magnificently feisty stage presence, the thrill factor is short-lived as the band's limited repertoire soon became apparent. Though their sing-a-long melodies are instantly captivating and have you jiggling about for the first few bars, closer inspection reveals grating lyrics and clichéd choruses that a gaggle of love-sick sixth-formers might have composed.

Eager to please, each track contains the requisite amount of chart-friendly pop, clattering guitars and penetrating Siouxsie Sioux vocals –

enough to court teenage musos, but sadly not enough to sustain a career. Republica have a handful of amiable, value-for-money singles that fuse synthesised post-punk rock with shamelessly trite indie pop, but they are ultimately uninspiring. And while the music might not last the course, Saffron, at least, can look forward to a glittering career in television.

A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper.

FIONA STURGES

## Beat generation

### POP

CYPRESS HILL  
THE ASTORIA  
LONDON

ONCE, CYPRESS HILL stood at the crossroads – at that point where rock and rap entwined with the hair-trigger life of LA's ghetto. On their landmark album, *Black Sunday* (1993), the slow, booming beats of their Italian-American mastermind, DJ Muggs, ushered in a new sound for hip-hop, and a new audience: white rock fans. They took underground rap into the mainstream and became the fastest-selling rappers ever.

But in hip-hop, reputations are made to be broken. Cypress Hill's last album, *Cypress Hill III: Temple of Boom*, made little impact. Their one-time collaborator, the RZA, and his Wu-Tang Clan have usurped them, with a spartan, speeding sound that makes *Black Sunday* sound sluggish. The forthcoming *Cypress Hill IV* addresses the problem, Muggs sharpening his sound and lead rapper B-Real spraying boasts till they cannot be borne.

But can such intense invention be brought to the stage?

Such moments that Cypress Hill instill the warmth on which live hip-hop thrives. But the qualities that make their new work effective are not so easily achieved. B-Real's raps shoot by so fast they can't be heard, and the chasm in intent between, say, the stoner reverie, "Insane in the Brain", and the brutal "Steel Magnolia" is flattened.

Muggs's trademark sirens are mere embellishment, and the night is soon reduced to hip-hop's most basic component: the beat, thumped with chest-rattling force.

As at any rock show, it's all half the crowd want. But when Cypress Hill encore with the sound of guitars (from the album's "Lightning Strikes"), you pine again for the layers that have been lost. The band leave after only an hour. Time enough for a dance. Not nearly enough time, or space, for the more complex pleasures they're capable of.

NICK HASTED

## Passion underplayed

### CLASSICAL

ANGELA HEWITT  
WIGMORE HALL  
LONDON

ANGELA HEWITT is what you might call a highly groomed pianist, renowned for her gleaming, precise playing of Bach – she has just released her recording of the first book of the *48 Preludes and Fugues*.

Opening her Wigmore recital on Friday with four pairs of these – the A flat major and its equivalent minor, and the A major and minor, she uncharacteristically suffered some small memory lapses, possibly triggered by a spate of unduly noisy coughing in the audience. There were no more accidents in a splendid choice of programme, yet Hewitt never quite overcame an element of self-consciousness. Nor could we forget her rather startling image, armoured, rather than dressed, in a stunning outfit of shimmering gold that seemed to have taken its inspiration from one of the neighbouring super-kitsch furnishing stores.

There was nothing very alarming about Hewitt's treatment of Schumann's fiery

G minor Sonata. She had brought in a Rosendorfer – lighter in tone than a Steinway, and well-suited to the generous acoustic of this hall – but she didn't always draw an ideally full sound from it. Not only was her left hand underbalanced in strong passages, particularly in the flamboyant scherzo, but her soft playing, though certainly delicate, was also a bit undernourished. She also had a distinct tendency to be coy at the beginning and ending of a phrase and it seemed a puzzling affectation to start the prestissimo coda of the finale hesitantly, as if searching for something in the dark.

One of Hewitt's specialities is Messiaen, and after the interval she played six of his early Preludes. Her cool, transparent delicacy seemed ideal for

the rainbow-like chord clusters of "Les sons impalpables du rêve", but however soft some of the other pieces were meant to be, I still wished for more depth in the piano sound and greater projection. When called upon to be dramatic, in the punchy opening of "Un reflet dans le vent", she was fine. She was also razor-sharp in the stern admonitions of Liszt's *Dante Sonata*, nor ineffective in the way she opened the whirlwind section in smoky obscurity. But there's no substitute for a performance of this visionary work that is overwhelming and all-consuming, and though Hewitt played it very well, passionate abandon is not part of her artistic make-up.

Surprisingly, the thing I enjoyed best in the whole evening was her third and final encore, a simple transcription of Richard Strauss's song "Morgen", in which she spun out an exquisitely protracted singing line to perfection.

ADRIAN JACK

**THE WEST END HAS DARED TO BE DANGEROUS!**  
Nicholas de Jongh, *Evening Standard*

**Superlatives have risen to flood-level!**  
THE INDEPENDENT

**DIANA RIGG: THE MOST DARING AND MAGNIFICENT PERFORMANCE OF HER CAREER!**  
Julia Taylor, *SUNDAY PIONEER*

Jonathan Kent's 'powerful and pulverising' production  
THE GUARDIAN

Maria Bjornson's 'elegantly gorgeous designs'  
THE SUNDAY TIMES

**phédre**

'Racine's masterpiece'  
Andrew Vachon, *FINANCIAL TIMES*

Ted Hughes' new version 'continually explodes with emotion'  
Charles Spencer, *DAILY TELEGRAPH*

TOBY STEPHENS'S NEWCASTLE...  
WHY? THE TIMES

**GREATLY DIGNIFIES THE WEST END ROLL ON, BRITANNICUS!**  
THE SUNDAY TIMES

JAVICO 1350



# I am art, therefore I am

Gavin Turk doesn't need to look far to find a fitting subject for his art. What better than ... Gavin Turk. Self-congratulatory nonsense, or does the Brit-pack star actually have something to say? By Judith Palmer

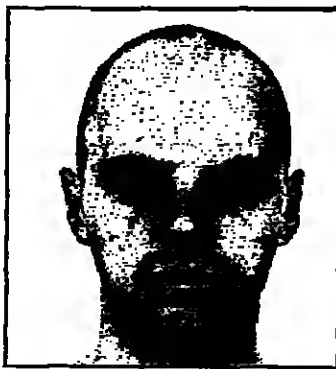
Gavin Turk was no doubt the kind of boy who spent his adolescence re-drafting his signature over the outside of his pencil case, rough book, duffel bag, his arm or any other available surface. The years weren't wasted: he's perfected a very nice signature. Well, it's a rather nice name, Gavin Turk. In fact, young Turk's finest asset is probably his name. And how fully he capitalises on it. Most artists sign their work. Turk just signs his name, and it is the work.

Ever obsessed with the cult of self, Turk's final year show at the Royal College of Art consisted of an empty sculpture studio, hearing a discrete circular blue plaque with the words "Gavin Turk Sculptor worked here, 1989-1991" on it. College Rector Jocelyn Stevens withheld his degree; and the young British art-world fell at his feet.

Turk's new solo exhibition at the South London Gallery, "The Stuff Show", sticks with his favourite topic: Gavin Turk. "Narcissistic, or what?" muttered every punter, hang on cue, as they entered the space.

There's a helpful quote from fellow British artist Sam Taylor-Wood outside, for anyone who makes the same mistake. "Gavin is special because he is totally inseparable from his work - but at the same time it's not narcissistic or even like self-portraiture," she says. "It's so bizarre that the work is about him, yet at the same time it could be about somebody else called Gavin Turk. It's like the portrait of an anonymous man."

With guff like that in your defence, it's no wonder Turk attracts a routinely hostile response. A shame, as Turk's work is actually fairly like-



able. Dominating the show is a life-size wax work self-portrait - within a vitrine - of Turk as Marat, dead in his bath. It is a close pastiche of David's 1788 painting of the assassinated French revolutionary via the Madame Tussaud's chamber of horrors. Turk lies slumped and turbaned, swathed in sheet and sacking, beneath a baize-covered board in a modern tapless fibreglass bathtub, poised on chequer-board lino. Missing from the original however, are the wound and bloodied water. Marat's quill and papers, so that the tableau is deliberately stripped of meaning.

"Never let your brushwork show," David famously instructed his pupils, but Turk's Marat comes complete with raggedy joins, blamangey nipples, snipped lashes and eyebrows and chest-hair scattered from clippings off the barber's floor. Like Hirst's taxidermy, Turk's wax-work is slovenly up close, but the general effect is striking.

Following on from his degree-show plaque, which presented his career as if it were already over, *The Death of Marat* underlines Turk's assertion that "life only acquires meaning and shape through death".

An interesting choice of alter ego. Marat - the venerated radical who fell from fickle public favour. His body was committed to the Pantheon with full public honours, then cast out 15 months later amid popular ex-ecration. There also is a scabrous private joke at play. Marat, of course, took to his bath as relief from a nasty skin disease contracted while hiding in the Parisian sewers, while Turk's self-portraits seem to reveal the scaly, desiccated hands of an artist who has spent too much time dabbling with toxic resins.

The other wax-work on display, *Bum*, stands directly on the floor, positioned as if it had shuffled in off the street. *Bum* is Turk as a gummy-eyed dervish - a recreation of the artist's bleary entrance stunt to the Royal Academy's private viewing of Sensation - in piss-stained trousers and newspaper-wrapped feet. A glut for the self-referential, *Bum* strikes the same pose as his Sensation wax-work *Pop* with Turk dressed as Sid Vicious posing as Warhol's Elvis; and to crown it all *OK*, a huge photo triptych of Turk dressed as a bum, points limply down at *Bum* while *Bum* peers at yet another photo self-portrait.

They are everywhere. A big fresh-faced photo head with eyes closed in *Portrait of Something that I'll Never Really See*; then a light-box mounted portrait with flaky khaki mind-pack, smirking demonically like Grant Mitchell in *Apocalypse Now* in a *Man Like Me* Mr Kurtz. It makes quite an impact as it's the only Turk here with its eyelids open.

They are obviously intended as expressions of banality, but most of the cover versions still don't do much: a Magritte-style portrait in a suit with an egg for a head; a Jasper Johns-type fleecy DIY paint-roller

cast in bronze, a big Manzoni egg in a packing case, a Duchampian sanitaryware font signed Gavin Turk instead of Armitage Shanks.

Ironically, the most pleasing works are those neat, confident, well-practised signatures, as omnipresent as a global corporate brand name. *One Thousand, Two Hundred and Thirty Four Eggs* has tightly-packed rows of empty eggshells, glued like ping-pong balls undulating across canvas; with his shadowy autograph tidily nibbled out across their surface. Opposite, more white on white, looking like an embossed deep-pile fancy-hotel bath-mat is *Constellation* with nearly four metres of teeny white polyester beads signed in elegant relief.

Above it all, mounted on tasteful neo-classical roundels are two big blobs of chewing gum, shiny smears of yellowy resin, thumbtaped onto the walls (*PKI & PK2*). A yobbish mark of disrespect to his own show, that spat-out gum might as well be Turk's official acknowledgement of the guiding forces of Brit-pack art: the throwaway, and frandulent, emptiness and groundless ego.

Amid all this brazen hugeness, you could easily miss one drab little photo, *Drouste Effect 98*, a panoramic 360 degree shot of the gallery, with every exhibit wrapped in brown drapes. This is the latest chapter in Turk's ambitious self-mythology, for the artist apparently opted to leave his show covered up throughout the private viewing. He does, after all, know one thing about young British art - what really matters is being seen and soaking up the free Becks.

Gavin Turk, *The Stuff Show*, South London Gallery, 65 Peckham Rd SE5 (0171-703 6120) to 18 Oct



Gavin Turk's 'Marat' wax figure comes complete with blamangey nipples, and body-hair straight from the barber's floor. Inset, Turk's self-portrait John Mason (main photo) / Stephen White

## Ewan McGregor: his life and slender times

A famous publisher has asked you to write a biography of the star of *Trainspotting*. First, a bit of self-congratulation is in order, then you have to write the bloody thing. And quick. By Xan Brooks

ABOUT A year ago, I wrote up an interview for publication in *The Big Issue* magazine. The article amassed precisely two pieces of feedback. The first was an Outraged-of-Oldham type letter complaining that the picture of Ewan McGregor smoking a Marlboro on the cover set a terrible example to the youth of Britain. The second was a phone-call from André Deutsch publishers asking if I'd be interested in writing McGregor's biography. All things considered, it was a better response than normal.

Initially, though, the second reaction troubled me rather more than the first. Because celebrity blogs are weird. Traditionally these 20th-century phenomena tend to occupy a polarised and schizophrenic landscape. They are either gushing hagiographies or poisonous Kitty Kelley-ish muck-rakers. Added to this, a book about Ewan McGregor posed an extra hurdle. At the time of Deutsch's call, the *Trainspotting* star was all of 26 years of age; a middle-class Scotsman with an unremarkable past and a swift crop of good pictures to his name. Note to prospective authors: one cure for any arrogance in being handed a book deal is the knowledge that its sub-

ject is younger, richer and immeasurably better looking than you.

There were other, more pressing problems. Without the luxury of an agent, I had to wrangle for money myself (although knowing there was no agent to skim 10 per cent off the top was some consolation). I also had to negotiate the direction Deutsch's book should take. One possible way around McGregor's relative lack of life, I reckoned, was to use him as a conduit, the symbol for some emergent renaissance in the British film industry in general. The publishers were on for this. The man himself was not. Smugly confident that McGregor would consent to a few further interviews, I was brought up short when he wired back that "when there's a book to be written I'll write it myself". In that instant, *Choose Life* (the publisher's suggested title) hopped from prospective authorised biography to actual unauthorised biography, and I was forced to scour about for information.



Ewan McGregor, reluctant subject

UPPA

Fortunately, I had a stockpile of old interviews, while my regular film editor job at *The Big Issue* gave me access to various actors and directors who had some previous connection with McGregor. This was gratuitous moonlighting. Discussing her new and relevant film, *The Hanging Garden*, with *Shallow Grave* actress Kerry Fox, I abruptly veered off with a hopefully casual, chewing-the-fat tone: "so yeah, what was it like working with Ewan McGregor?" Her stalled, startled look (and in numerous others like her) is an abiding image of that manic time.

The last 11 months have been a bit of a blur. What do you do when you have between January and April to write 60,000 words on a 26-year-old who isn't co-operating with the project? Well, to be honest, you wing it. You interview everyone you can grab hold of, you plunder your own archives, you contextualise as best you can and yes, you use cuttings: those shameful, second-hand goods that all biographers fall back on. And

then you try to fit them all together. In some sort of order. In a very short period of time, praying all the while that it makes some sort of sense, that it sheds some light on the subject matter. Don't get me wrong. Writing still doesn't feel like a proper job. Compared with, say, working the deep-fat fryer or resurfacing the A40, it's a doddle. But on this occasion it felt like being just a tad too much of a good thing.

Compared with regular journalism, the publishing world is viewed as a soulful and sanctified realm; a haven for the genuine artist. Certainly, the people working there seem a lot more civilised - the editors, designers and publicists I worked with at André Deutsch all proved endlessly more grounded, informed and tolerant than your average newspaper or magazine type. But in the end, the two disciplines are pretty similar. The same time imperative, the same commercial intent, the same dash to hit the shelves before the topic turns

cold. And at the end of the day, *Choose Life* is just an extended piece of journalism. It profiles an up-and-coming personality and maps out a fledgling scene. Its contemporariness, its sense of a story that's still running, is both its weakness and its strength. Thus far the book has had what is known in the trade as a "mixed reception". The film magazines have slagged it, other publications think it's fine.

Inevitably, my own feelings are in conflict. I'm proud that I did the book and pleased with a lot of the stuff inside. At the same time, I regard *Choose Life* much as I imagine a parent must regard a well-meaning but slightly slow and fragile offspring. They're an autonomous entity on the one hand; a worrying mirror of their creator on the other.

You raise them as best you can and then gaze anxiously through the fence as the other lads mill around it in the playground, scrutinising it and prodding for its weakness. You pray it will be all right. Secretly, you hope that the next kid has a bit more going its way.

*'Choose Life: Ewan McGregor and the British Film Revival'*, is published by André Deutsch, £9.99

## Two geniuses go 'phut' in Paris

"GOSH, YOU take a couple of geniuses and put them in the same room and POW!" exclaims an old barfly in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, a play by the movie star, Steve Martin, which is now receiving its European premiere at the West Yorkshire Playhouse.

Well, "pow!" might describe the dramatic effect created when Terry Johnson brought Freud into collision with Salvador Dali in *Hysteria* or when, in *Insignificance*, he holed up those two 20th-century icons, Einstein and Marilyn Monroe, in the same Manhattan hotel room where she kindly demonstrated to its proponent the theory of relativity. "Phut," though, would be a better way of characterising what happens here when Steve Martin steers Einstein and Picasso into a Paris bar - despite the fact that, towards the end, there's an explosion which blasts in a time-travelling Elvis Presley.

The piece is set in 1904 at the brink of the century our youthful

### THEATRE

PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE  
WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE  
LEEDS

geniuses were, in their respective fields, to dominate. The bar regulars have a go at predicting what the next hundred years will bring. Their forecasts are either uncannily prescient and very American ("By the end of the century, smoking in restaurants will be banned") or tastelessly accurate ("The city of Hiroshima will be completely modernised"), or spectacularly wrong, or dumb-blondie ditz ("A yo-yo will be a wonderful thing to play").

That gives you an idea of the tone to which this play keeps reverting - a facile jokiness which depends upon the lazy superiority of hindsight. When, for example, Brian Shelley's likeably gentle Einstein arrives at the bar, another character

fails to recognise him. "I'm not myself today," he apologises, and musses his combed hair to the trademark mad-scientist look. He's already the icon he was yet to become.

As for the promised battle of wits, it's waged very weakly and in fits and starts because Martin's script has too short an attention span to pursue any topic with persistence.

"For me," declares Ben Walder's Picasso, eschering art science, "the shortest distance between two points is not a straight line."

"Likewise," counters Einstein. It's a neat, if contrived, turn, but the piece fails to take you all that much further into the scientists' ideas and their imaginative implications. Gag-ridden, it also has worrying patches of straight-faced uplift and movie-speak.

"So you say that you, too, dream the impossible and bring it into effect," marvels Picasso, recognising a creative kinship across the disciplines. Tom Stoppard's *Travesties* with its conjunction of Joyce, Tzara

and Lenin, manages to be a hundred times funnier than this, while also sustaining serious debate about the relationship between art and revolution.

The most enjoyable character in Randall Arney's attractively acted production is the bumptious little self-deluded charlatan, Schmendiman (Andrew Nyman) who is convinced he is going to become one of the century's household names because of the potty "inflexible and very brittle building material" he has invented. Martin has him conceitedly deprecating the two real future giants and coming up, as if inspired, with tired old traditional ideas - saying "cheese" for photographs, putting dunces in pointy hats - that he feels will further seal his bid for immortality.

An amusing lesson in the parochialism of self-regard, the character refreshes a play you don't need to be Einstein to recognise as intellectually thin and disappointing. PAUL TAYLOR

### CD OF THE DAY

JANACEK: STRING QUARTET NOS 1 AND 2  
GUARNERI QUARTET (RECORDED 1996)  
PHILIPS 456 574-2

PHILIPS'S NEW coupling challenges at least two understandable preconceptions: that Czech ensembles are the best exponents of Janacek's music, and that a 41-minute CD at full price cannot hold its own when good, better-value alternatives are in generous supply. What marks these performances out as particularly special is their warmth and spontaneity.

Both pieces date from the glorious, late phase of Janacek's career when composed was an expression of his infatuation with a girl 38 years his junior. They are confessional quartets; music that had to be written and that couldn't possibly have been otherwise. The First Quartet is

the shorter of the two, a hot-blooded, unpredictable essay, where sudden dramatic interjections and restless rhythmic patterns are leavened by passages of great lyrical beauty.

It's a sort of stream of consciousness that somehow establishes its own form. Janacek's specific inspiration was the novel, *Kreutzer Sonata*, by Leo Tolstoy, and the seething tensions of marital jealousy that fill the book are granted a musical soundtrack to match.

The playing of the Guarneri Quartet combines heightened sensibilities with a pooled interpretative wisdom that is only possible when a group has been playing together for many years. But don't expect easy

listening. There are plenty of rugged accents, and the spur of the moment is never dulled, though in the Second Quartet - the one sub-titled "Intimate Letters" which Janacek dedicated specifically to his youthful beloved - the Guarneri Quartet softens the mix with a mellow, reflective quality that pays highest dividends in the outer sections of the gently rocking third movement.

Speed changes are common throughout both works but, again, the Guarneri Quartet is adept at balancing heart and head: everything is superbly controlled, no detail left to chance and phrasal articulation is pin-sharp. The recordings are superb.

ROB COWAN



## FILM

Unprotected gay sex, S&M, Aids-revenge fantasies – the New Queer Cinema had no time for PC ethics. But now that generation of directors is moving with the times and making queer films to embrace straight audiences. By Liese Spencer

# Queer vision, straight talking

This is my first heterosexual movie," says Gregg Araki of *The Doom Generation*. Released this week, the second instalment of his *Teen Apocalypse Trilogy* is a slyly provocative stomach-churner, a road movie that satirises the frantic couple-on-the-run genre with a surreal splatter-fest of sex and violence. "In the way of *Philadelphia* and *Longtime Companion* were gay films for straight people," says Araki, "*Doom* is a straight movie for gay people." Confused? You should be. *Doom Generation*, along with forthcoming releases from *Go Fish* director Rose Troche and *Safe*'s Todd Haynes, is to blur the boundaries between gay and straight, identity politics and entertainment. Swap PC manifestos for a more gleeful queering of the mainstream, generation of young film-makers are grouped under the banner of New Queer Cinema. It is escaping low-budget, festival-circuit chic to introduce its subversive aesthetic to a wider audience. The term "New Queer Cinema" coined at the Sundance film festival in 1992 by Ruby Rich, a *Village Voice* journalist, to describe a bunch of gay directors united by an unapologetic, in-your-face attitude towards their sexuality. Eschewing red-ribbon liberal rhetoric of the 90s, these film-makers were interested in offering a "body politic" of positive gay representation in twisting narrative and genre conventions to explore ideas of social alienation and the construction of identity in particular "viancy". Tom Kahn's 1992 post-modernist piece *Suono* used the story of the infamous Twenties child stars Leopold and Loeb to describe a society pathologises homosexuality in the act of defining it. Jean Genet with *B-movie* sci-fi and rite-of-passage docu-drama produces an elegant and intellectually rigorous response to hysterical media representations of homosexuality and Aids. As its original title, *Fuck The World*, suggests, Araki's first feature

was a more visceral reaction to the epidemic. A self-styled "irresponsible movie", 1992's *The Living End* featured two HIV-positive lovers on the lam. An angry answer to both the homophobia of the right and the fearful PC caution of the left, it was full of explicit unprotected gay sex, S&M and Aids-inspired revenge fantasies, in which Araki's glamorous outlaws fantasised about going to White House to inject Bush with their blood.

These, then, were the main players of New Queer Cinema, although other film-makers were loosely embraced by the label, including more established directors, such as Gus Van Sant and Derek Jarman. Drawing on the legacy of Cocteau, Warhol, Fassbinder and Kenneth Anger these directors employed experimental methods to describe the diversity of their difference.

"What I loved about the New Queer Cinema," Haynes later told journalists, "wasn't that it was gay film-makers making films about gay people. What I loved was the fact that it was a group of films which all had their different stylistic or formal approaches to the stories they were telling. People were thinking about the way we see the world. Whether we're looking at a gay character or a straight character, we will see the world differently."

Unfortunately, this otherwise eclectic group all saw a world without women, their movies reproducing the same male-dominated world of any Hollywood blockbuster. Indeed, it is possible that New Queer Cinema marginalised the female of the species still further. No longer even objects of desire, the few women who made it into these films were figures of parody and revulsion. Off screen the story was the same. New Queer Cinema was a boys club, and only retrospectively were lesbian directors such as Rose Troche added to its roll call of talent.

Mainstream film has always cannibalised the alternative in its search for new subjects and visual styles. In return, many of the film-makers in that first wave of New Queer Cinema appropriated negative stereotypes and exploitative images for their own ends. But these days things have become more complicated. Patronising, populist dramas such as *Philadelphia*



Rose McGowan (above) in *The Doom Generation*, directed by Gregg Araki (right). "It's a sort of *Last Tango in Paris* for teenagers," he says of his movie

have made way for the commercial, feel-good camp of movies such as *Muriel's Wedding* and *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. Queer directors such as Van Sant have been assimilated into Hollywood (Matt Damon and Ben Affleck's male bonding in *Good Will Hunting* a far cry from River Phoenix and Keanu Reeves in *My Own Private Idaho*). Gay characters

laws are replaced by high school lovers Rose McGowan and James Duval, who hook up with Jonathan Schaech's psychotic bisexual after the accidental murder of a fast-food clerk. Combining a distinctly camp, surf-speak philosophy ("I feel like a gerbil smothered in Richard Gere's asshole") with schlocky scenes of death, sex and decapitation, *Doom* is the queer answer to

dom went hand in glove with glam's concept of identity as performance.

"It was a period when the integrationist spirit was still very much alive," says Haynes, "and androgyny and bisexuality were very much in vogue. I tend to see it as a more progressive time than now."

Troche's new feature, *Bedrooms and Hallways* (still without a distributor), is more upbeat about the Nineties. Made for £2.2 million, it presents a farcical round of chic London relationships that highlights the liberating mutability of contemporary sexual identity.

Of all the New Queer directors, Kahn has probably stayed closest to his low-budget, experimental roots, writing (in 1996) the screenplay for *Office Killer*, the camp pastiche on office politics, alienation and female identity by Cindy Sherman, an American photographer. Like his contemporaries, however, Kahn's recent work shows a move away from a singular, affirmative identification with male gayness towards a broader queer aesthetic.

Introducing women and straight characters, queer cinema in the Nineties has widened its sights to portray a fluid pansexuality accessible to gay and straight audiences alike. Cynics might say that New Queer film-makers are simply growing up and selling out. Certainly, in a bid for broader distribution the muscular gay sex of *The Living End*



and *Poison* has been replaced by censor-friendly off-screen orgasms and a more diffuse homoeroticism. Coitus interruptus figures heavily (just as James Duval and Jonathan Schaech are about to consummate their relationship in *Doom Generation*, a group of homophobes intervene; in *Nowhere*, the last instalment of the *Teen Apocalypse Trilogy*, one of two lust-filled boys just happens to turn into a cockroach). Then again, perhaps the wider appeal and more commercial approach of these new movies merely signals a mature Queer Cinema that is confident enough to enter the mainstream without losing its critical gay voice.

Just as straight dramas often use gay characters to confirm the status quo, new work by Araki, Haynes and Troche employs gay and bisexual

characters to disturb the heterosexual norm. *Doom*'s Schaech may seduce Rose McGowan, but it's the desire between Schaech and Duval that really drives the film. Similarly, the real romance in *Velvet Goldmine* is not between Jonathan Rhys-Meyers' glam god Brian Slade and wife Toni Collette, but between Slade and Ewan McGregor's grunge icon Curt Wild.

By appropriating mainstream styles and ideas, these queer movies reveal their artifice, slyly positing free-floating desire as an alternative to happy-ever-after heterosexuality. As Araki says of *Doom*: "It's heterosexual in a very queer way, which is something that is really interesting for me. I think that of the movies I've made it's the most subversive... I call it *Last Tango in Paris* for teenagers."

In a bid for broader distribution, the muscular gay sex of 'The Living End' and 'Poison' has been replaced by censor-friendly off-screen orgasms and a more diffuse homoeroticism

have been tamed from sexual predators into pet best friends: The Afflicted Other as The Object of My Affection.

For their part, many queer directors are using bigger budgets, mixed casts and conventional narratives to make more commercial pictures. *Doom Generation* abandons the shoot-and-run "guerrilla" tactics of Araki's previous films for polished 35mm imagery and a kinetic MTV take on juvenile delinquency. Araki's HIV-positive out-

straight exploitation flicks such as *Natural Born Killers*.

Haynes's forthcoming glam rock epic, *Velvet Goldmine*, looks back to the Seventies as a time when gender-bending role play and sexual and sartorial experimentation escaped from gay subculture into the mainstream. Rather than the Nineties' apolitical assimilation of gay ideas and aesthetics, *Goldmine*'s nostalgic period piece sees the Seventies' queering of the mainstream as a radical moment in which personal free-

## DOUBLE BILL

JULIAN HENRIQUE, DIRECTOR OF 'BABY MOTHER', ON HIS IDEAL CINEMATIC PAIRING  
CHUNGKING EXPRESS DIR. WANG KAR-WAI (1995) BLACK ORPHEUS DIR. MARCEL CAMUS (1958)



'Chungking Express' and 'Black Orpheus' – urban films in very different environments

mythical present. It takes the Orpheus myth about the god of music going into the underworld to rescue Persephone. In that underworld there is also the underworld of a city; the gangster land and the unconscious come together and we

go into the deep motivations of where we are coming from.

*Black Orpheus* was a pioneering film in terms of black film-making. The director was a Frenchman and it was done at a time when there was a lot of interest in the new black

world. Jean Paul Sartre was discussing negritude – an idea which tries to point to the essence of blackness in terms of culture and aesthetic. By setting the ancient Greek myth in a black carnival underworld it was taking a very specific and

perhaps unusual setting and showing how the archetypal and recurring myth can function in a different place. And, of course, the use of colour for both night-time and carnival costumes is absolutely splendid. There is one amazing

scene when Orpheus dies and climbs up a hillside by a shanty town, falls and is impaled on a huge cactus.

It's the idea of ancient timelessness and the Post-Modern clashing together in these films which makes them work well together. There is also a very interesting contrast between the two in the use of colour. *Black Orpheus* is in CinemaScope with the old Technicolor colour stock look with its contrast of reds and blues. It's a colour quality characteristic of films in the late-Fifties. It contrasts with a modern film stock in *Chungking Express* which registers colour in a completely different manner. It's more bleached out, a kind of alienated look completely appropriate to the subject.

From different ends of this half of the century *Chungking Express* and *Black Orpheus* capture the world in all its different energies.

INTERVIEW BY  
JENNIFER RODGER

BEST BRITISH FILM – EDINBURGH  
BEST ACTORS – DEREK JACOBI & DANIEL CRAIG  
BACON BROUGHT HOME IN STYLE! – THE TIMES  
JACOBI'S MESMERISING PORTRAYAL OF BACON – SIGHT AND SOUND  
"GRIPPING, STYLISH" – THE OBSERVER  
"A MASTERPIECE" – \*\*\*\*\* UNCLUT

DEREK JACOBI, DANIEL CRAIG  
WITH TILDA SWINTON IN JOHN MAYBURY'S  
**LOVE IS THE DEVIL**

STUDY FOR A PORTRAIT OF FRANCIS BACON  
STARTS TOMORROW  
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# Just blood, sweat and fears

## THE BIG PICTURE



RYAN GILBEY

LOVE IS THE DEVIL (18)  
DIRECTOR: JOHN MAYBURY  
90 MINS  
STARRING DEREK JACOBI  
AND DANIEL CRAIG

FRANCIS BACON never ventured into film, though his work was informed by cinematic possibilities, and cinema could happily be inhabited by his spirit. He's there in *Last Tango in Paris*, where his paintings are employed to usher in the mood of disquiet, while Donald Cammell admitted to arranging Bacon-esque compositions for *Performance*. The artist's own tastes were raw and eclectic. It was said that he harboured a passion for the *Rocky* series – for its hyperbolic amplification of the wet, leathery thrack of fist on flesh.

This suggests a romantic fusion of art and man, but *Love is the Devil*, John Maybury's film about Bacon, goes one step further. It mixes up his life and work as though the two were squiggles of paint on a palette, combined to achieve a pungent, unfamiliar new shade.

*Love is the Devil* distances itself from the territory of tortured artist biopic by virtue of its modest subtitle – *Study for a portrait of Francis Bacon*. While the film has discernible momentum, charting the dismal trajectory of the relationship between Bacon (Derek Jacobi) and George Dyer (Daniel Craig), his lover of seven years, it is closer to a collection of sketches or brief nightmares, each ending on an ambiguous cut or a tantalising fade-out. This is Maybury's first feature, though his experience as an experimental film and video artist, not to mention former collaborator with Derek Jarman, has taught him to search out the soul of a subject without being cramped by narrative demands.

Cinema has never been shy of investigating homosexual desire, provided that it all ends in tears, and preferably blood and sweat too, but *Love is the Devil* will frustrate



Derek Jacobi bears an eerie physical resemblance to Bacon – the eyes dead, the face puffed as though from a jellyfish sting

those audiences seeking another *Killing of Sister George* or *Prick Up Your Ears* because it withholds explicit data on its characters' pathology.

This sparseness backfires only once, when a passing reference to Bacon's relationship with his father gives no indication of the regime of horrific abuse which passed for paternal affection. Mostly, the paucity of information effectively reduces love to appetite – a hunger for hunger's sake. George simply tumbles into Bacon's studio, while botching a burglar's escape, and writes him to bed. The film's

you know, they have assumed the positions of a married couple: one languishing in the bath, the other poised at the shaving mirror. True, they don't lunch with the in-laws or trundle around the Co-op together, but they share their own quaint, comforting rituals. Bacon kneels by the bed, and George lashes him with a belt. Lit cigarettes are also involved.

As with any great love affair, there is an ugly clash of backgrounds. Bacon lounges around in drinking clubs with an entourage of wealthy, upper-class show-offs led by a friend, the painter Marcel Belcher, whom Tilda Swin-

ton plays as someone trapped midway through a transformation into a werewolf. George has his own surrogate family of Brylcreemed East End gangsters, and it's a sweet touch that these minor Krays should be the only ones to express concern about George falling in with the wrong crowd.

Daniel Craig's portrayal of this hopeless boy clambering after manhood is a glorious mess of poignant contradictions. George is a thug whose means of survival suddenly count for nothing in his new social circle. He quickly realises that if you slit the throat of one of Bacon's taunt-

ing friends, you'll be judged not on the efficiency with which you make the incision, but whether you've selected the correct knife.

The realisation imprisons George, when self-consciousness pervades this most fundamental level of behaviour, instinct is snuffed out. In fact, the film is full of images of imprisonment, self-imposed or otherwise. A recurring feature is the crane shot in which the camera slowly rises to peer down on Bacon from the top of a room which had appeared to be of normal dimensions but is actually revealed to resemble a cell.

For Cocteau, the mirror was a magical gateway to other dimensions, but in Maybury's film it traps those whose likenesses it bears. Many of the shots are composed as fractured or multiple reflections in mirrors and silverware, or distorted images spied through the curve of a brandy glass. Maybury was refused permission to incorporate Bacon's paintings in the movie, yet this restriction has granted him an unexpected freedom. Set alongside examples of the artist's own work, the film's evocation of its essence might appear tame. On their own, Maybury's approximations of

Bacon's grotesquely beautiful style create the sensation of the celluloid being infected by the art, as though the film stock had been left too close to one of Bacon's canvases.

This goes for Derek Jacobi too. He bears an eerie physical resemblance to Bacon – the eyes dead but for an occasional spasm of rage or lust, the face puffed as though from a jellyfish sting. He's very good at translating Bacon's sexual and creative restlessness into physical movement too, and the actor is helped here by Maybury, who often simply fixes the camera on him like a spotlight, magnifying every twitch and squirm.

The movie is not so much filmed from Bacon's perspective as shot through the hairs of his paintbrush, just as *A Man Like Eva* or *Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters* scrutinised their respective subjects through the fabric of their art.

At a boxing match, Bacon is elated by the collision of bodies and the spray of sweat; when a plume of blood is splashed across his face, he releases an ecstatic gasp, his expression mirroring the shot of the wounded nurse from *Botticelli's Potemkin* which had earlier inspired him. At other points, Maybury plays violently blurred close-ups in stuttering slow-motion to echo the thrashing, fleshy chaos of Bacon's painting. It might seem paradoxical for the moving picture to struggle to replicate the effect of a portrait, but Bacon's work was charged with a physicality that doesn't so much lend itself to cinema as test the medium's mettle.

It is fitting that *Love is the Devil* seems to be unfolding within a Bacon canvas given Maybury's eloquent argument that both the artist and his model were trapped inside the work. There is no governing reality. Even outside the cluttered studio, there is a heightened artificiality which the real world cannot penetrate. During a television interview, the studio camera zooms into Bacon's bloated mouth as though suddenly possessed by an attack of Bacoitis.

It could be that Maybury plays his trump card too early during a scene of Bacon plotting the composition of a new painting. He picks up a battered dustbin lid, paints around it and then turns to face us, wearing the lid on his arm while wielding a dripping paintbrush in the other hand. The makeshift sword and shield provide a piercing metaphor for a man whose art both reflected his world and protected him from it.

## ALSO SHOWING

LETHAL WEAPON 4 (15) RICHARD DONNER ■ MEN WITH GUNS (15) JOHN SAYLES  
■ THE DOOM GENERATION (18) GREGG ARAKI ■ CHARACTER (15) MIKE VAN DIEM  
■ KISSING A FOOL (15) DOUG ELLIN ■ PEPE LE MOKO (NC) JULIEN DUVVIER

THE POSTER copy for *Lethal Weapon 4* says it all. "The action you expect, the faces you love," it trumpets presumptuously. In other words, you've seen it all before and you're still going to come back for more, aren't you? The continuing success of this series of light-hearted thrillers is a testament to the number of people for whom cinema is a comfort blanket – a breezy stroll along familiar streets rather than an almighty leap into the great unknown.

To its credit, *Lethal Weapon 4* does strive to bring a fresh tang to a stale recipe. Although Detectives Riggs (Mel Gibson) and Murtaugh (Danny Glover) are struggling to crack a counterfeiting industry run by Triads, a more pressing concern is the battle against old age. When action heroes contemplate hanging up their holsters, they are sometimes driven to make interesting career choices – it's no coincidence that Gibson took on his most challenging roles last year in *Ransom* and *Conspiracy Theory*. *Lethal Weapon 4* doesn't offer him the same diverse opportunities as those films, but there are enough references to Riggs's age to create some interesting synchronicity between the actor and the role.

With an eye on the younger members of its audience, the picture also finds room for the sparky young actor Chris Rock, who is distinguished among this ingratiating cast by his ability to earn your laughter without pleading for it. Otherwise, the movie is all gratuitous destructions, raging fireballs



'Lethal Weapon 4': a fresh tang to a stale recipe

and male bonding. One memorable set-piece remains, though, featuring Gibson doing 80mph on an upturned coffee table, and one with no tax or MOT at that.

From men with sitting-room furniture to *Men with Guns*, the conscientious and dreary new movie from John Sayles, who is going to have to do something very drastic to convince me that he isn't the most over-rated film-maker in America. In an unspecified Latin American country, a doctor (Federico Luppi) decides to investigate the fates of the students whom he trained as doctors.

However, his investigations reveal that each of them has met a grisly end at the hands of a brutal military regime.

Unperturbed, the doctor presses on through ever poorer villages, collecting companions and testimonies which create an image of a country in crisis. Sayles is commendably adventurous in his choice of subject matter, but consistently fails to animate or dramatise any of his ideas. As films go, *Men with Guns* would make great radio.

Gregg Araki's *The Doom Generation* was made in 1995, before his last film *Nowhere*, but the ramshackle style and pop-culture preoccupations are the same. The America inhabited by the film's trio of bisexual psychopaths is on the brink of apocalypse: all-night convenience stores serve luminous junk food and bear signs reading "Shoplifters will be executed", the dismembered and decapitated faunt their injuries and start speaking in tongues long after they should have stopped twitching.

The stoned humour which thrives in the air of depravity is best exemplified by the actress Rose McGowan – even as she is tramping ankle-deep through carnage, her lipstick remains unsmudged, her bob unruffled. But even a fan would have to concede that all this debauch-

ery wears thin some way before the end.

The Dutch drama *Character*, winner of this year's Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film, follows the efforts of a young lawyer (Fedja van Huet) to escape the cruel control of his bullfinch father. Told in flashback, the story evolves into a mystery hinging on the old man's enigmatic protestation that he was trying to help rather than hinder his son. The picture is too long, but I liked the playfully brooding tone which transforms it into a Gothic cartoon for grown-ups; indeed, the physiological peculiarities of its supporting cast would make Juliet and Caro drool.

On to *Kissing a Fool*, a comedy starring the disturbingly uncharismatic David Schwimmer from *Friends*. He plays an egotistical sportscaster who feels claustrophobic at the prospect of marriage, and decides to test the loyalty of his bride-to-be (Mili Avital) by using his best friend (Jason Lee) as bait. Yes, it's another film about male fear of commitment – and yet another with nothing original to say on the matter. The only reprieve comes from Jason Lee, though it's a measure of how tired the movie feels that even he is just repeating his Agitated Best Pal routine from *Chasing Amy*.

A deserved re-release this week for *Pepe Le Moko*, Julien Duvviers' 1936 thriller in which many themes which would later congenial to form film noir surface in an unusual context. The setting is the unforgiving labyrinth of the Algiers Casbah; Jean Gabin is the romantic criminal yearning for love whilst being hounded by the police. When his resolve starts to crack and splinter, you glimpse a vulnerability that is exquisitely moving. What begins as a battle of wits ends with a man grabbing at a future that will always be just out of reach. Ouch, in a word.

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# Short changed

How does the British Short Film Festival survive when audiences, producers, and even film-makers prefer features? Charlotte O'Sullivan talks to festival organiser Amanda Casson

Basically he became very violent," says Katherine Campbell, "and I was beat up several times, under Huey's direct hand or by his directors." "Huey" is Huey P Newton, Campbell is a woman who joined the Black Panthers as a ferociously idealistic young girl. In Sienna McLean's documentary *Still Revolutionaries* - one of 380 films which will be shown as part of the British Short Film Festival - Campbell and a fellow ex-party member detail the implosion of a movement they believe in to this day. It is a short, sharp and shocking history lesson. And it lasts all of 16 minutes.

Sadly, few people will see this film. Like short men, short films have to fight to be taken seriously (and do not always succeed). Amanda Casson, who has been running the festival for 10 years, is used to this. "There's no outlet," she fumes, as I drag her from her cassette-crammed office for a quick chat. "Short films aren't seen as an art form in themselves. Miramax pick up a short film and run it before a feature, but it's once every three years and inevitably it'll be a film with stars in it." Soon-to-be-released *Desserts*, starring Ewan McGregor, is a case in point.

The general public is not better. Mostly, says Casson, they are drawn by major names - Scorsese shorts say, or commercials by Bergman. In 1995 Casson had a whole section devoted to the short films of Hollywood's big shots. It was a sell out. What of the festival's other, more specialist punters? By Casson's own admission, the rest of the festival's attendees tend to be members of the industry (travelling incognito) or young, wannabe film-makers (waiting to be approached). In other words, their eyes are on the feature-film prize, because that is where the prestige and money lie.

Helena Apple - whose *Portrait of Mr Pink*, a wonderfully tender, 15 minute study of an old, lonely Jamaican man, can be seen in this year's festival - says it is not like that for everyone. She usually works on documentaries of 50 minutes, but chose to pursue this project because "I'm not interested in making loads of money and I love getting into a little world". She agrees, however,



Festival organiser Amanda Casson, right, and Panther Huey P Newton, above Neville Elder/AP

that most of her film-maker friends are a bit snooty about the genre and "want to do the long thing".

So are short films a lost cause? Jeremy Howe is the series producer of BBC2's *102.10* and *The Talent* at the British Short Film Festival, a one-off programme that will feature "four of the best" films. He allows that TV heads like Michael Jackson "are not going to build their evenings around short films", because "great swathes of short films are wearing". But he also feels these mini-flicks offer unique opportunities. "It's like the difference between a lyric poem and an epic one." He warns to his theme. "Some people, like Chris Newby for example, make features that are far less exciting than their shorts. Another thing to remember about shorts is

audiences are often prepared to take greater risks - you can push them further because they know it's going to take up little of their time."

As with Howe, Casson's job is to select the good ones from the dross. No easy matter, as Casson will tell you. Of the 5,000 entries which she peruses over weekends and evenings ("I have no life," she admits cheerfully), most were "deeply deeply bad" - out of focus when they are not supposed to be or so self-indulgent it's untrue. Originality was somewhat lacking, too. "They all want to do *Reservoir Dogs* in the docklands," she says with a deep sigh. "It's a very easy genre to copy - all you need are four rough-looking chaps."

On top of that, she has market-led sponsors (including Metro Goldwyn Mayer, American Airlines and Cham-

pagne Gossett) to contend with. "They're never interested in the stuff I like," she mutters. "There's a wonderful, harrowing film this year called *Extension 55* about disabled children in Poland." The sponsors choose the winners, Casson sniffs. "So it's bound not to get anything."

That said, Casson is a woman prepared to compromise with the mainstream. She is delighted, for instance, with the commercial success of many of her young finds. "Jamie Thraves," she confides, "was picked up by John Stewart of Oil Factory Films - he's the brother of [Rhythmic] Dave Stewart, which is another connection because, of course, Dave Stewart makes a lot of short films." Ye gods, the heart sinks. "Anyway, Jamie's very famous. He did a *Holsten Pils* advert." Another favourite,



South Africa's Koto Bokofo, is married to "a very famous and white model". Casson leans forward confidentially. "He's very black, a very political animal, but she's got lots of money, so that's good!"

This mixture of know-how and innocence is probably what keeps the British Short Film Festival going. And 1998's showing certainly contains its spiky gems. Amongst what Casson fondly calls her "400 piles of crap" there's a new 14-minute documentary from George Hickenlooper (who helmed *Hearts of Darkness* about the making of *Apocalypse Now*) on cult Seventies director Monte Hellman. There is also a perfectly strange but riveting entry from Jay Rosenblatt, *Human Remains*, which focuses on the lives of five dictators, including Mussolini and Hitler, and begins, "I always liked chocolate éclairs." There are also way too many films by young men expert at the regurgitation of Hieronymus Bosch paintings. But hey, that goes with the territory.

What keeps Casson going is her belief that short films are "lighter" than the average movie. "Jim Jarmusch still makes short films, so does Mike Leigh; it's a way of keeping themselves disciplined." Does her job not make the rest of the world seem strangely slack? Casson laughs. "I want to see a preview of *Love is the Devil*. The girl sitting next to me said 'God, that must have seemed like two days to you, not two hours!' Is that how it felt? Casson surveys the sky diplomatically. Then she looks down at her watch, presses her hands at papers to her chest and says, "My

## VIDEO WATCH

MIKE HIGGINS

**As Good As It Gets (15)**, available to rent now  
A HANDY equation for Hollywood comedies: the degree to which an apparently irredeemable character exhibits non-PC sentiments in the opening reel is invariably in direct proportion to the sentimental claptrap said character will be spouting come the end of the popcorn. And so it goes with Jack Nicholson's foul-mouthed, obsessive-compulsive novelist, Melvin Udall. He can't stand his homosexual artist neighbour, Simon (Greg Kinnear), dines out with sterilised cutlery, and demands to be served by the same waitress, Carol (Helen Hunt) each time he visits his favourite restaurant.

Udall's belligerent tirades are lent a degree of comic force by Nicholson's typically showy performance, but the rest of the screenplay works overtime to atone for Udall's misanthropy. Carol, as a single mother burdened with an ill child, is saved from a ghastly canonisation only by Helen Hunt's excellent performance, while Simon seems to function solely as a second gauge by which to judge Udall's prejudices. Against this background, the developing relationship between Melvin and Carol may be inevitable, but it's no less ludicrous.

**In the Company of Men (18)**, available to rent from next Wednesday

WHAT IS really disturbing about Neil LaBute's black comedy isn't the viciousness of its male protagonists' project - Chad and Howard plan to destroy a woman to avenge what they perceive as female treachery in the bedroom and the boardroom - but the mundanity that LaBute divines in their actions. Ball-busting Chad (Aaron Eckhart) and timid Howard (Matt Malloy) bitch and brag their way around their almost exclusively male office, indulging in the kind of macho posturing that finds its apotheosis in their plans for Christine (Stacy Edwards), a vulnerable, deaf temp. Chad and Howard plan to romance her simultaneously and then

dump her after six weeks. LaBute's coup, though, is to approach this nasty *ménage à trois* in the manner of an anthropological study. The director breaks his own screenplay up into six acts, punctuating each with a burst of thunderous drums. The alpha male, common office variety, is ruthlessly satirised, yet the universal quality of the screenplay - we don't know anyone's surnames or which town we're in - is a reminder that conversations not unlike these are taking place at a photocopier near you. If there is a weakness, Christine's character, benign and idealised, is something of a cipher - only at the conclusion does the film consider her isolation from her suitors.

**Jackie Brown (18)**, available to rent from Monday  
IT'S UNLIKELY that you'll find posters for Tarantino's latest feature adorning student bedrooms in the way those for *Reservoir Dogs* and *Pulp Fiction* have for most of this decade. In fact, apart from the continuing attention given to slick dialogue, a wonderful soundtrack and narrative sleight-of-hand, *Jackie Brown* feels like the director's attempt to escape his own legacy.

Adapted from Elmore Leonard's *Rum Punch*, the film centres on the attempts of the eponymous 44-year-old air stewardess (Pam Grier) to flee the gun-runner (Samuel L. Jackson) for whom she moonlights, and the police, who have coerced her into informing on her boss. Her accomplice is fifty-something ball bondsman, Max Cherry (Robert Forster), and it's a nice irony that, like the last chance middle-aged Max and Jackie seize, B-movie regulars Grier and Forster make the most of their lead roles. While handling the tension of the sting well, Tarantino reveals a sensitivity for character that has always distinguished Leonard's books, but which has been absent from the director's work. *Jackie Brown*'s minor figures - Bridget Fonda's fading surf chick in particular - justify the trip to the video store alone.

## RUSHES

THE ETERNAL drama that is the production of *Eyes Wide Shut*, Stanley Kubrick's long-awaited film, seems to have entered its final act. Warner Brothers announced a US release date for the film, 16 July next year, with an international release to follow shortly. As next summer's US release schedule stands, Kubrick's psychosexual drama, starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman as married psychiatrists, will be up against a number of big hitters released in the weeks before: Will Smith's *Wild Wild West*, the first of the new *Star Wars* trilogy, and *Boyz n the City*, a vehicle for Eddie Murphy and Steve Martin. The studio will want to avoid this summer's Avengers fiasco and, while Warner Bros have demonstrated notable loyalty to Kubrick over the past 30 years, they'll be looking for a big hit from a production which has given them a lot of headaches. Since filming began in 1996,

Jennifer Jason Leigh and Harvey Keitel have had to pull out and the studio has found it difficult to quash rumours surrounding the film's tortuous gestation. Kubrick can count himself lucky, for instance, that one of the world's most-sought-after stars, Tom Cruise, has kept his schedule free for the production - his last big-screen appearance

was in *Jerry Maguire* and the actor was required for reshoots earlier this year.

WITH MEL Gibson about to appear at a multiplex near you as Martin *Lethal Weapon* Riggs for the fourth time, news comes that Universal Pictures is gearing up for a fourth installment of the film that set the Australian on the road to Hollywood, *Mad Max*. Twelve years after the last of George

ly been signed up to revive the franchise, according to reports in *Variety*.

Gibson's representatives, however, claimed not even to have been contacted about the possibility of their man sporting his Outback muller for a fourth time. The actor has come a long way since *Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome*, and now commands a salary per film in excess of the total cost of the original trilogy. The 42-year-old has already stated that he's unlikely to line up for a *Lethal Weapon* 5, and if we're to believe that then a fifth *Mad Max* may be beyond Gibson.

BEST LEAVE the stuntwork to James Cameron and his box of CGI tricks. Police in Michigan, USA, have reported the drowning of a 25-year-old woman who allegedly decided to adopt Kate Winslet's spirit of ecstasy pose on the prow of *Titanic* in the film of the same name. The woman died when she lost her balance and toppled off the pleasure boat, banging her head as she did so.

MIKE HIGGINS

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## THE CHARTS



Complacent male-bonding rituals continue to enthral the public, but this time in Spielberg's *Second World War* Europe as opposed to *Guy Ritchie's East End*. *Something About Mary* improves - having slipped to number 2, the Farrelly Brothers' wittily dumb flick is back on top.

## LONDON BOX OFFICE

TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS (£)
1 <i>Saving Private Ryan</i>	17	234,236
2 <i>Lock Stock &amp; 2 Smoking...</i>	13	111,743
3 <i>The Last Days of Disco</i>	10	52,803
4 <i>The Horse Whisperer</i>	9	46,679
5 <i>The Spanish Prisoner</i>	7	33,154
6 <i>The X Files</i>	8	28,486
7 <i>Armageddon</i>	11	27,850
8 <i>The Land Girls</i>	5	17,121
9 <i>Le Bossu</i>	3	13,990
10 <i>Dr Dollittle</i>	7	9,945

## US BOX OFFICE

TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS (\$)
1 <i>Something About Mary</i>	2,545	10,920,201
2 <i>Blade</i>	2,375	10,788,664
3 <i>Saving Private Ryan</i>	2,807	8,825,090
4 <i>Knock Off</i>	1,800	5,516,231
5 <i>Ever After</i>	1,000	4,348,419
6 <i>54</i>	1,869	4,025,576
7 <i>Why Do Fools Fall...</i>	1,377	3,540,408
8 <i>Snake Eyes</i>	1,912	3,331,861
9 <i>The Parent Trap</i>	2,045	3,202,708
10 <i>Soella Got Her Groove...</i>	1,340	3,019,496



# EDUCATION

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## Where are all the teachers?

Teacher recruitment is in crisis. But are the millions spent on the Teacher Training Agency's advertising campaign really going to make a difference? Many think not. By Emma Haughton

'I like teaching but I won't be a teacher'



Anne Hubbard: 'I couldn't believe this was happening to Julian. He had been studying for nearly seven years'



### KATHERINE'S STORY

IN JUNE this year, I graduated from university with a Bachelor of Education Honours degree. I got a 2:1 and good references on my abilities as a primary school teacher. However, you will not now find me ensconced in a classroom.

I am not alone. There were several of us who realised as graduation loomed that teaching was not for us. We spent many an hour, and longer, discussing whether to teach or not to teach; where our true destinies might lie.

Yet I enjoyed many aspects of the school day. As part of the degree, we were required to undertake the dreaded "teaching experience", which at the end of the course involved undertaking at least 80 per cent of the teaching and full responsibility for the day-to-day running of the classroom. For the majority of the time, the children were a delight and a successful lesson gave a buzz. I worked with some inspirational teachers who were truly dedicated to their profession and to meeting both the educational and emotional needs of the children. There was always a sense of teamwork in the schools that I worked, with everyone pulling together and no one was ever too busy to help and advise.

At the end of the school day, although I was weary, there was usually a feeling of great satisfaction.

The main reason for not joining the profession is that at the end of the school day I knew with unhappy certainty that I would need to spend the rest of the afternoon and evening battling with a never-ending pile of paperwork. Planning, recording, assessing and marking were just a few of the joys that awaited.

Figures from the Department of Education for the year 1995-6 show a significant drop-out from the profession after graduation. Of students completing a PGCE, 32 per cent did not go on to teach - 35 per cent from my course.

Although some of these students may have re-entered the profession after a break, it shows that there is a problem with retaining graduates in the industry. So what is going wrong? The National Union of Teachers, in conjunction with the Teacher Training Agency, surveyed over 3,000 16 to 19-year-olds at the end of last year, with 1,000 responding. The survey asked students to give four factors that would put them off entering the profession. Fifty-five per cent cited long hours and work at home. The main reason, given by 60 per cent of respondents, was misbehaving students. The third and fourth top factors were low pay (44 per cent) and stress (24 per cent).

The bureaucracy nightmare is exacerbated by the class sizes. It is clear that the larger the size of the class, the more paper work there is to do. There has been an effort by the government to tackle the issue of bureaucracy with strong guidelines laid out as to the amount of paperwork that teachers should be doing. However, it remains to be seen whether the schools will take up these guidelines.

The salaries awarded to teachers have always been a problem in the issue of recruitment. The starting salary for a good honours graduate is £14,751, which is below average for graduates. After three years teaching, the salary is 18 per cent lower than average. This increases to a third lower than average after five years. If you then stay in the profession for seven years, the salary will be £22,023. This is the top of the scale and although it is possible to increase earnings by taking on extra responsibilities, there may not be enough financial incentive for doing so.

It remains to be seen whether I will resist the callings of the profession forever. Unless promises of cuts in bureaucracy and rises in pay come to fruition, I cannot envisage myself returning to the industry. Luckily there are teachers, working day in, day out, who strive to give the children in their classes the best possible chance in life.

KATHERINE STOREY

### JULIAN'S STORY

## 'You can't teach kids. You're too old'

NO one forgets a good teacher. So says the Teacher Training Agency (TTA), which is using the lure of immortality to win over high-flyer graduates in its multimillion-pound teacher recruitment campaign.

So far, however, the catchy slogan, cinema ad, telephone hotline and website have made little impact on prospective applicants. Figures from the Graduate Teacher Training Registry show that this year's take-up of PGCE and Bachelor of Education courses is well down on 1997. Around 80 per cent of BEd courses had vacancies and joined clearing, while mid-August figures showed sharp drops in applications across most subjects. Mathematics was one of the worst hit, with PGCE applications down 22 per cent on the previous year, more than 60 per cent below government targets. Science and geography were also down 15 per cent and 14 per cent respectively. Only English, IT and PE made small gains on last year.

Although even leading teacher training institutions have struggled to fill their courses, few are surprised. "I've been predicting this nightmare for a number of years," says Ted Wragg, professor of education at Exeter University, who points out that a still buoyant economy is providing more alternatives in graduate employment. "When the economy is poor, people are desperate to get into teacher training, even just as a hedge against not getting other kinds of job."

Applications to teacher training may well be an accurate barometer of the UK economy, but the current dearth is not just a matter of economics. Nor is it simply a question of money. Although the autumn Green Paper on teachers' earnings is expected to propose performance-related pay in an attempt to attract more high-flyers, Wragg thinks it is reputation, rather than

WITH THE downturn in applications to be trainee teachers, universities are crying out for good, high-flying candidates for their courses. Or so you would think.

Yet two weeks ago Julian Hubbard started a teaching job in Uganda after spending two years trying unsuccessfully to get on to a postgraduate teacher training course or a teaching job in an independent school in Britain.

Before taking the Ugandan teaching job he had been reduced to taking a job as a security guard to help make ends meet. He and his wife, Anne, have had their finances wrecked by Hubbard's decision to give up his antiques business to return to university and pursue a life-long dream of being a secondary school history teacher. Last week Anne put their house near Chipstow on the market prior

to joining him in Uganda.

Hubbard was 37 when he decided on a life change. He went to Reading University and got a first in Ancient History. He then accepted a three-year scholarship at the University of Wales in Swansea. After just one year he became a PhD candidate, and at 44 was awarded a doctorate in Ancient History and Civilisation.

Despite having been offered a PGCE place during his first degree, when Hubbard applied for a teacher training place through UCAS while doing his doctorate he was turned down without explanation by all institutions. "I applied to many universities and hundreds of independent schools, and I was never offered even an interview," he says.

Anne was equally distraught. "I just couldn't believe this was happening. Julian had been

studying for nearly seven years and we'd spent our savings, and he couldn't get a job."

Hubbard believes it was high qualifications and age that stood in his way. "Despite the Government's rhetoric, there remains a deep-seated suspicion of high academic qualifications amongst the public educational training establishments, together with an almost breathtaking desire to maintain the status quo."

But Anne wanted an explanation, and wrote to the TTA. Ofsted, the Welsh Office, even Tony Blair, although there was sympathy for Hubbard's predicament, she was advised to go back to the institutions which turned him down. One told her that her husband's application hadn't been worth an interview.

Another university eventually offered him an interview. Hubbard felt the

interviewers were hostile. A few days later a letter arrived saying that they believed he did not understand the nature of history and they considered him too old to fit into a school.

Anne says: "It has been an absolute nightmare. We are very angry about how this has happened in a climate where they are crying out for qualified teachers. All my husband wanted was to teach history to kids because he really believed that if they could be taught to analyse what happened in the past, they would be better equipped to handle the complex world of today."

"We have spent every penny trying to make him a teacher and he has been treated in such a humiliating way. It has all ended in disaster."

EMMA HAUGHTON

remuneration, that is crucial.

"I don't think money is the big issue. Starting salaries in teaching are not seriously adrift of what graduates would get elsewhere." The principle problem, he says, is the disaffection of current teachers, who have always been the best recruiters of the next generation. "They are tired of being the butt of society's wrath and are telling people they must be mad to want to do it. Teaching is a job that appeals to people, but they're stopped in their tracks when teachers are always being criticised. It's the most scrutinised job on earth."

One leading university education department head, who wishes to remain anonymous, lays the blame at the feet of the TTA and Ofsted. Ofsted's high-profile attacks on the profession and the TTA's impact on teacher education and morale have so damaged the reputation of teachers and teaching that bright young graduates simply don't want to get into the field, he says. "If you want people to do something difficult and demanding, it's not very clever to start by telling them they are no use."

He is particularly scathing of the TTA's recruitment campaign. "It's

been totally ineffective. There have been lots of inquiries, but very few converting to applications. The ad shows these boring old facts, standing with their backs to the kids, writing on a blackboard, who would be made mincemeat of in a comprehensive. Is that really supposed to attract bright graduates?"

Wragg, too, regards the TTA campaign as fire brigade tactics. "If you don't burn the place down, you won't have to put the fire out. Of course it's right to remind people of the value of teachers, but it's just addressing the symptoms. You don't change the esteem of a pro-

fession overnight when it's had years of rubbishing. I'm told there are huge guffaws when the ad comes on in cinemas - probably from the teachers in the audience."

Others believe government reform has given teaching an increasingly mundane image. Teachers are suffering from the burden of public scrutiny, and the bureaucracy imposed by innovations such as assessment. According to Bethan Marshall, lecturer in education at King's College, it has changed the nature of the profession, "and what is guaranteed to make the job hateful is the idea that

you spend all your time filling in forms".

The millions spent on cinema ads does not replace the much clearer message that teaching is about implementing government policy, she believes. "If you want bright people, you've got to make the profession look more creative, but teachers have to work so much harder now to get the creative scope they once took for granted. The literacy hour, for example, is extraordinarily prescriptive."

But Stephen Hillier, secretary of the TTA, is impatient of such views. "It's like saying a doctor's freedom is restricted by telling them the most effective surgical methods to use. Teaching has to be seen in the same light. You can't have a system where you do your own thing, it's not what parents or the government wants."

The TTA is happy with its progress. Hillier believes the ad agency has achieved its aim of raising the stakes, as well as doubling the number of inquiries. "We didn't expect it to have an immediate impact - it would have been great if it had, but the objective was to raise the profile and status of teaching." The TTA is also keen to show that those with the combination of skills teachers require will find they can succeed in many other careers.

But as Wragg points out, teachers are already wise to their wider market value, with three quarters leaving the profession before retirement. Haemorrhaging staff at one end and failing to attract new blood at the other, the profession may find itself caught in a vicious circle of decline. In maths and science, for instance, it's notoriously difficult to recruit high quality teachers. "You get a cumulative effect where teachers are not especially well qualified to teach these subjects, which in turn doesn't inspire the next generation to teach it themselves." No one forgets a good teacher, perhaps, but everyone remembers the bad.





The popularity of Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo and Juliet* depended on the removal from the text of nearly everything a modern reader might be stumped by

Many students are bored by classic texts because they lack any rapport with the authors. By Stephen Logan

## You like books? That's unusual

PEOPLE COMMONLY suppose that teaching literature must be a delightful occupation. After all, the subject matter is so interesting and the students, presumably, so keen.

In principle, of course, these are fair assumptions. Literature deals, in the most diverse, ingenious and interesting ways, with the very stuff of life. It covers the entire span of familiar experience from birth to death and it speculates on what is (to author, reader, or both) unfamiliar or unknown. It tells us, as nothing else can, what it has felt like to be alive under an inexhaustible diversity of historical and social conditions.

Not to be interested in it is unthinkable, surely? Well, no. There is a difference between being interested in your own experience and being interested in what other people have written about theirs. But

even though not everyone is equally given to reflecting on what happens, some capacity for being interested in experience is a basic human attribute. It seems reasonable to suppose that by the time students reach A level standard, they will be competent readers and that, by the time some of them go to university they will be well on the way to being literary critics. But again, this is only half-true.

In many casual discussions of reading, literature is assumed to be modern. But most of what we call literature is, in fact, old. And the further back you go in time, the more you need to know in order simply to make sense of a literary text, let alone understand why you should enjoy it.

Once taught *Tom Jones* (1749) to a very able group of sixth formers. They were interested in the basic is-

suces that could be abstracted from the book and talked freely and fruitfully about whether having a good disposition is just luck, whether honour matters more than piety and whether sexual promiscuity wasn't more reprehensible in the 18th century than now.

The trouble started when we tried to discover more exactly what Fielding thought about such things by closely examining his words. It soon became apparent that these intelligent, well-educated students had difficulty in reading Fielding's prose: the syntax felt too complex, many words had undergone important changes of meaning and, the whole pace of the narrative was simply too leisurely for their tastes.

The linguistic impediments to reading old books are often more serious than with Fielding. Getting an able and willing undergraduate to

read Chaucer, Malory, Spenser or even Bunyan with any degree of fluency is often very difficult. The popularity of the recent film of *Romeo and Juliet* depended not only on brilliant camera-work and direction, but on the excision from the text of nearly everything a modern reader might be stumped by. Fair enough; but the new film and the old play are only nominally the same.

My sixth form students had a deeper problem with *Tom Jones*. They could not easily imagine the system of values underlying the book. This, too, is a problem which gets worse as you go back in time. Most pre-Modernist literature in English is profoundly influenced by Christianity and by classical precedent. Most post-Modernist literature is not. There is thus often a serious disparity of assumptions between old books and modern readers.

Hence what really holds students up in their reading is a sense of a lack of rapport with their authors; and this, combining with more practical difficulties is often enough to dissuade them from further effort. They have, in a word, got bored.

Even modern literature has its problems. Ever since the publication, in the 1920s, of Eliot's *The Waste Land*, Joyce's *Ulysses*, Pound's *Cantos* and Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*, it has been assumed that the best books are the most difficult. Hence there is now a distinction in the publishing trade between "literary" or "original" fiction and the rest.

You know which books are literary from feeling simultaneously an urge to huy them with a disinclination to read them. This equation of literary sophistication with difficulty, occurring at a time when traditional standards of judgement are in

disarray, has had disastrous results.

The worst, perhaps, is that it has writers able to cheat diffident readers into submission by seeming clever. Hence you get the spectacle - still, unfortunately, common - of poets, novelists, playwrights and critics implying that if you can't be bothered to penetrate their obscurities, you must be thick. Youngsters tend to respond to this either by turning away in healthy retaliation, or else by becoming prigs.

Recent poetry and fiction shows signs of regaining its accessibility. And the dominant literary forms - not the novel, play or lyric poem, but the newspaper article, the screenplay and the song - are in good health. Nonetheless, traditional literature has been culturally marginalized and the dominance of the audio-visual media has fostered habits of attention unsuited to

leisurely, careful reading.

The most obvious obstacles to good reading are lack of the necessary kinds of linguistic knowledge; remoteness from the underlying assumptions of old books and unready habits of attention. Less obvious, but more damaging, however, is the loss of faith in reading as a potential source of wisdom. This has weakened the principal motive for becoming a versatile reader. The job of the teacher of literature is not to sigh appreciatively over masterworks the students have only to open to enjoy, but to promote good reading by encouraging students to recognise the difficulties that stand in the way of it.

The writer is Director of Studies in English, St Edmund's College, Cambridge. Year of reading, news section, p3

### ODDLY ENOUGH

NICK FEARN

**Bienvenue à l'enfer:** Students and parents in France can now call a government hot-line for help when sadistic initiation rites at top schools go too far. A new law has made *bienvenue* illegal for the first time since Napoleon established it to form a lifelong *esprit de corps*. The law makes it a criminal offence, punishable by six months in prison and fines of £5,000. Mostly, the practices are harmless: wearing bin liners and being smeared in shaving cream, for instance. But increasingly violent practices have emerged in recent years, especially in military academies and medical schools. It hasn't taken long for the ban to take effect. Stanislas, an elite private high school in Paris, was forced to cancel its annual "orientation" week, and two schools have been shut after students were found locked in rooms.

**Fleshly prepared:** A recipe once used to prepare human flesh by Pacific Island cannibals is being revived by researchers to preserve fruit in an effort to expand the region's processed food industry. British food scientist, Richard Beyer, director of the University of the South Pacific's Institute of Applied Science, said he expected the recipe, if marketed properly, to be popular with tourists as a hu-

morous product. "There's a fortune in it," Beyer predicted. "It doesn't matter what is in it because nobody is going to eat it. The tourists are just going to buy it for their mother-in-law."

**Space cadets:** A NASA testing station's security has been penetrated by a rocket, but the "invasion" isn't causing any panic. The foot-tall rocket found at the Lewis Plum Brook Station was made of paper and fuelled by eight blue helium balloons. Attached was a note from a class at Lincoln Elementary School in Monroe, Michigan, asking the finder of the rocket to write back. "There's got to be a one-in-10 zillion chance of them landing a rocket in a rocket-testing facility," said Robert P. Kozar, general manager of the station. Kozar invited the sixth-graders to the centre. "It's the best thing to happen since the school year started," said principal Patty Weisbach.



### WORD OF MOUTH

JOHN IZBICKI



Belfast's Europa hotel, a regular terrorist target

**Dressing for crisis:** So how does one manage a crisis when it strikes a university? Peter Reader, head of public affairs at Southampton University, knows the answer only too well. A couple of years ago, he had to cope with three campus deaths

out of six cases of meningitis. He launched a major meningitis campaign and organised a round-the-clock helpline. Vice-chancellor Howard Newby went on television to report three confirmed and a fourth suspected case. Sometime

later, a "shocked and stunned" vice-chancellor announced the first fatality. No one would envy Reader or Newby their tasks. But everyone working in the field of public relations must be aware of the meticulous preparations that need to be made for the eventuality of a crisis, even down to the clothes one wears.

It's no good being solemn in a Mickey Mouse T-shirt. When the vice-chancellor went before the cameras, he wore a dark suit and, as it was early November, a single poppy. This kind of dress sense was discussed more fully at another crowded seminar by Julia Campion, an image consultant who runs a company called First Impressions and advises MBA students at Cranfield University on how to make an impression at interviews. The British, according to Campion, are among the poorest wardrobe spenders. Less than 10 per cent of incomes goes on clothes, compared with 20 per cent spent by the French and Germans and 40 per cent by the Italians and Japanese.

**What crisis?** Even while the Belfast conference was

in full swing, Queen's University was undergoing its own crisis, as readers of this newspaper will be well aware. Staff are up in arms over attempts to cut one academic in 10 (107 altogether) from the pay roll. Yet very few delegates suspected anything amiss. Two alumni officers - Gerry Power of Queen's and Sue Raes of the University of Ulster - had organised the conference so smoothly and efficiently that any background rumblings went unnoticed.

**And finally:** Lord Smith of Clifton, vice-chancellor of the University of Ulster (Trevor Smith as was when senior vice-principal of Queen Mary and Westfield College, London University), delivered a splendid keynote. He lambasted the Russell Group of would-be Ivy League universities for being too large in its pretensions and proposed that schools, from nurseries to secondaries should be joined to universities. At the end, when he was thanked for so wide-ranging a speech, he quipped: "I'm also available for bar mitzvahs."



# End of the great tuition fee scare

Universities are still filling up, despite the newly introduced £1,000 annual tuition fee. Lucy Hodges examines why



Katie Allen: attending university near her home in an attempt to save money

Richard Rayner

Why is it that the doom mongers have been proved wrong and that students still sign up for university despite the introduction of the £1,000 tuition fee? Nationally, figures show there has been no fall in the numbers applying to higher education as young people scramble to get to grips with what is called "the knowledge society". There has been no fall in young people applying to university from the lower socio-economic groups and there is even a rise in the number of English students applying for and being accepted by Scottish universities - something which was not expected at all. So students have to pay the £1,000 for four years instead of three.

Although applications from traditional 18-year-old students have held up, those from adults over 21 have declined. That, in itself, reflects a trend, because applications from adults have been on the decline for a number of years. But the drop is slightly bigger this year. It is possible that the £1,000 fee has acted as a deterrent, though it's also possible that the demand from adults for university education has become saturated.

Second, students' tastes are changing, according to Tony Higgins, chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. Whereas, in the past, they might have chosen a degree leading to one of the "caring" professions such as teaching, social work and nursing, increasingly they are opting for courses that will take them directly into well-paying jobs, such as computing.

That shift may be related to the fees, the phasing out of grants and the student loan scheme, says Higgins. "Students know they'll have a bigger debt to pay off at the end of their graduation, so maybe they're taking subjects that will help them."

Perhaps reflecting this trend, some universities, notably the former polytechnics, are suffering a drop in applications this year - just as some experts predicted. The pattern seems to be that they are being hit in the social sciences and humanities, subjects which are not narrowly vocational and do not lead directly into work. That change is exactly what experts such as Alan Smithers, the Sydney Jones Professor of Education at Liverpool University, predicted would happen in the new higher education marketplace.

## WHAT KATIE DID

THE DAUGHTER of a fitter and a shop assistant in Cleveland, Katie Allen, 18, was not sure she would be able to go to university when the Government announced the new financial arrangements - the £1,000 tuition fee, the phasing out of the grant and the new income-contingent loans scheme. But with two A-levels under her belt and with the active support of her parents, she has decided to take up a place to study social sciences at Teesside, her local university. The big advantage of Teesside is that she can live at home and save on accommodation costs.

She also has a job locally, working as a lifeguard at the swimming pool and teaching swimming, which she will continue with. She will pay her £1,000 fee from the money she has saved up over the summer from her job, and with a little help from her parents. It is important to go to university, she says, because the more qualifications you have the better when it comes to a career. "I've wanted to go to university since I was young," she says. "I want to be a policewoman eventually, so I'm going to transfer in my second year to the criminology course if I can."

The University of East London, for example, is experiencing a drop in demand for degrees in social sciences, including economics and anthropology, and a drift instead to business studies. The university's vice-chancellor, Frank Gould, sees it as part of a trend. Students are beginning to opt for vocational degrees, he thinks. Subjects being hit are sociology, cultural studies and the humanities - but not English.

The University of Hertfordshire, formerly Hatfield Polytechnic, is finding applications down in exactly the same areas, though its overall application numbers are holding up. "We're also seeing problems - really for the first time - in humanities," says Dr Stephen Boffey, director of admissions. "There's one explanation which is that we have quite a lot of mature stu-

dents on our humanities course and mature students are being hit by the fees. But we're not doing at all badly in other areas. Computing is booming and we're also finding that we're doing very well in sciences, which surprised us, and we're pretty well hitting targets with engineering, which again is going against the trend."

In the course of the applications round this year, Dr Boffey did not find that the £1,000 fee was an issue for students except that he got a lot of people wanting to be released in the clearing process to live near to home. That supports other anecdotal evidence that students (like Katie Allen, above) are choosing to attend the university near where they live to save money.

At the University of North London (UNL) it's a similar picture. Humanities, including

history, philosophy, English and European studies, and social sciences have suffered, whereas the sciences have done better. "It's been very turbulent and there has been significant deterrence of mature students," says vice-chancellor Brian Roper.

"Applicants are saying: 'Can I have a place and can I take it next year?' and we're saying: 'Why? The fees aren't going to go away,' and they're saying: 'We're going to have to save up the money.'"

Applications by mature students to UNL are down 15 to 25 per cent this year, according to Roper, and that percentage is significant because the university is so heavily dependent on mature students. They form around three-quarters of the university's intake.

Roper is fed up with the university admissions system which involves students applying before their A level results and receiving offers conditional on students making specified grades. Those who don't make their grades enter the clearing system and take part in a matching procedure which match students with vacancies. The system creates uncertainty for all concerned. "We really must have a situation - I hope from next year onwards - where students are applying having their results in their hands."

New universities such as UNL were heavy users of the clearing process this year in the hope that it would fill up their courses. Indeed, last Friday, when one of *The Independent's* clearing supplement appeared, both old and new universities filled up 22 pages of the supplement with their offerings. Some observers have been surprised to see traditional universities

such as Queen Mary and Westfield (QMW) and Royal Holloway colleges in London as well as Sussex University appearing in clearing this year at this late stage. Were they experiencing problems in finding students this year?

The new principal of QMW, Adrian Smith, was not available for comment. A spokeswoman for Royal Holloway said the college had been seeking 400 students through clearing in subjects such as history, management, computer sciences, classics, physics, maths and music. But the college had not lowered its entry requirements or been reduced to advertising. Last week it was still below target in social policy and languages. Sussex said it had not experienced particular problems but in last week's clearing supplement it was still seeking takers across a range of courses.

So, although most vice chancellors gathering in Manchester this week will be congratulating themselves on their student numbers holding up and on the work they have done to ensure students understand the new financial arrangements and the value of a degree, they will also be aware that the new marketplace in higher education could mean turbulence ahead. They are not counting their chickens.

Dr Michael Goldstein, vice-chancellor of Coventry University, said his university had not yet met its targets on student numbers but expected to do so. At the same time, he couldn't be sure, just as other universities couldn't be sure, that all the students who had signed up would actually turn up when term started. "In some areas we're not sure," he said. "In some areas we're going to get withdrawals."

## A nation still hung up on vowel length

OH DEAR, oh dear! The press has had a field day this summer with the news about the dockers' son who became a Cambridge don and then humiliated a girl from Essex during her interview with him to get a place at the university. Journalists streamed onto the field of battle from all sides: the don was brilliant and misunderstood, he had a quirky sense of playful ironic humour, Ms Playle had obviously over-reacted, due to the stress of the interview; she just wasn't sharp enough to cope with a truly penetrating mind.

On the other side countered, Ms Playle was a very bright woman who had been reduced to tears and walked out of the room, unwilling to face a barrage of snobbish ranting from an unpleasant hully who has since been forced to apologise. Widening the terms, some wrote about how incidents like this underline all the attempts to attract students from the state sector to

Oxford. Apply to Cambridge and you too might be linguistically challenged. And so one unfortunate episode is then turned into a campaign.

Ms Playle is coming to my own university, where she will be warmly welcomed and where she will, I hope, enjoy her English degree with us. I am sorry that she had such a distressing interview at Cambridge and I admire her courage in going public about it and requesting an apology. But to suggest that one man's bad manners is representative of our ancient universities is ridiculous. We have all met people who show off at the expense of others, and it cannot be said that one institution has a monopoly on arrogance.

Equally ridiculous is the proposition put forward by some that all interviews should be abolished and replaced with paperwork. Interviews are never pleasant, but they serve a very useful purpose,

### THE VIEW FROM HERE



SUSAN BASSNETT

and an interview for university can help prepare students for job interviews later. At my daughter's school, parents turn up once a year on a Saturday morning and work with the staff on mock interviews for all the A level candidates. Other schools please note.

What depresses me about this case is the importance people in this country still attach to accents.

You can't turn on the radio or TV without encountering dozens of different accents, and yet we are still hung up on the idea of perfect received pronunciation (RP). We must be the only country in the world where an ideal version of the language exists that is not actually spoken in any geographical location.

We may have the idea of a classless society, of cool Britannia and all that, but a lot of ordinary people seem hell-bent on erasing traces of their local origins. Eric Griffiths, the academic in question, started out life as a Liverpool dockers' son, and yet seems to have felt that he needed to acquire an accent as camp as a row of pink flilly tents in order to get on in life. Similarly, Lady Thatcher invested time and, presumably, also money in losing her Grantham burr, and she still gets her pronouns wrong. Why do the English do it in this day and age?

The links between class, status and accent used to be obvious once upon a time. These days, with members of the royal family speaking estuary English and children of RP-speaking parents doing their utmost to acquire an Essex, Brummie or Liverpool accent in order to have playground credibility, it is surely time to accept that English has changed forever. I hope Tracy Playle hangs on to her Essex accent and responds to anyone who sneers at her in future with the contempt they deserve.

But equally, I hope Dr Griffiths takes a long, hard look at himself and seeks an answer to the questions of why he feels he needs to dress himself up in borrowed linguistic finery and pretend to be a toff. Brilliant you may be, Eric, but you're out of touch. The future belongs to our Tracey.

The writer is Pro-vice-chancellor of the University of Warwick

### HAM'S VIEW

FOOTBALL STUDIES

LECTURE HALL

PAY PER VIEW





## YOUR VIEWS

## Distorted picture of Queen's

IN HIS letter defending the Queen's University, Belfast, Academic Plan (Your Views, EDUCATION, 10 September) Pro-Vice-chancellor Andrew referred to the "discontinuation of a small number of subjects which are no longer viable". It is hard not to feel some sympathy for any academic charged with putting an acceptable spin on some very hasty and unacceptable corporate decisions but Professor Andrew's use of the word "viable" in this context is so esoteric that some explanation is necessary to avert misunderstanding.

Geology is the largest of the departments scheduled for closure at Queen's. It is the only university geology department in Northern Ireland and, though small by UK standards, the largest of five in Ireland, graduating 27 students in 1998, six of them with first class honours. It will soon exist only as a case history of the madness of management driven only by consideration of the next research assessment exercise, playing fantasy football with real careers.

The staff of the department have been told by the Vice-chancellor that closure has nothing to do with financial viability. Nor has viability anything to do with teaching. Geology is the only science faculty department at Queen's to be graded "excellent" for its teaching provision (Higher Education Funding Council Teaching Quality Assessment, 1995), but that is apparently quite irrelevant.

Geology is being "discontinued", with all the distress and misery this word embodies for staff, students and graduates, simply because the university management believes it is unlikely to obtain Grade 4 in the Research Assessment Exercise of 2001. Geology at Queen's was the smallest, or equal smallest, Earth Science Department to obtain Grade 3 in each of the last two UK assessment exercises (1992 and 1996), and in 1992 the only one to seek and gain that grade in recognition of the applied nature of its research. In the context of size this is a creditable performance. Grade 3 is the average national grade in the Earth Sciences: only Geology teaching departments twice the size of that at Queen's, and the research establishments at Reading and at Newcastle, were awarded research Grades 4 and 5.

Dr BERNARD ANDERSON  
Head of Geology Department at  
Queen's University 1990-96,  
School of Geosciences,  
The Queen's University of Belfast

As a member of academic staff at Queen's University targeted for early retirement, I wish to make something quite clear. In those who have now read Prof Malcolm Andrew's letter.

I do not have a weak research record. I have produced in my 24 years at Queen's 52 publications. This is a meritable output and my research receives international respect. I am only judged as a weak researcher by the incredible standards now required by Queen's in order to justify retention. My acknowledged contribution to the teaching of plant science at Queen's is seemingly not valued.

I am on the Editorial Advisory Boards for the *Journal of Biological Education* and *Biologist* - both journals of the Institute of Biology. My appointment as a Teaching Quality Assessment specialist reviewer for UK universities over the next two years will best be fulfilled if I remain involved with teaching in my present post.

What is at stake here is our answer to the fundamental question "What is a university?" Universities should be places where there is a symbiosis between teaching and research. Students



Most teachers are genuinely interested in their pupils and liaise with parents in a positive and caring way. See 'No war zone'.

Brian Harris

should always be put first. The worth of an academic should not be judged solely on whether their research reaches a level 4 or above in the research assessment exercise.

Dr PAUL CLIFFORD CBiol MIBiol  
Lecturer, School of Biology and  
Biochemistry  
The Queen's University of Belfast

Queen's is not in an analogous situation to the universities of Sheffield, Leeds and Manchester to which Prof Andrew compares it. Because of the proliferation of academic institutions in the English regions, it is likely that the needs of the region in teaching, research and development will be met by diverse providers. The University of Manchester may well compete with its regional counterparts to achieve a high RAE ranking, without fear of leaving vital functions unprovided for Northern Ireland, with only two degree and post-degree institutions, suffers from a deficit of university provision: the crisis in student places which would normally result is only averted by the fact that we export 40 per cent of our school-leaving undergraduates.

The criteria invoked to abandon subjects in Queen's include the necessity for a department to achieve a critical staff

mass before it can rate highly in the RAE. It is not, and will never be, possible for some departments in Queen's to achieve this, but that does not mean that Northern Ireland does not need Geology, Italian and Semitic Studies.

Similarly, research in Queen's should not be exclusively concentrated on areas that are going to achieve the highest RAE rating ("international").

Northern Ireland needs the informed skills of locally-based academics for research into our complex problems, which will not always be rated of international standing but the value of which to our communal future can hardly be measured.

Dr JENNIFER FITZGERALD  
Senior Lecturer,  
The Queen's University of Belfast

"There is no evidence to support the commonly held prejudice that staff who make a substantial contribution to research do so by neglecting their teaching." In saying this, Prof Andrew is clearly unaware of the substantial body of research evidence - admittedly mostly American and Australian - which supports that view. However, the risk that research-active staff will neglect their students has recently been confirmed by work at Oxford

Brookes University. My question for Professor Andrew is whether the students at Queen's University have been consulted on this issue, and whether they are happy to have an increasing amount of teaching carried out by people whose top-most priority is research?

Dr ROGER BROWN  
Principal,  
Southampton Institute

placed upon research has left her disillusioned, to say the least.

If universities are to have any hope of recruiting committed and caring teaching staff then there have to be other methods of assessment.

SUZANNE WARD  
Brighton

## Downside of research

My daughter has had first hand experience of the importance placed on research as opposed to students and teaching, while undertaking MA studies in Renaissance Literature at a prestigious London University college.

Throughout this year she has had only one essay marked and both she and her student colleagues have seen their assignments consigned to a box in the faculty office for a semester.

As an enthusiastic and committed student of English Literature who has a deep knowledge and love of her subject, she had hoped to continue on through the academic system and teach. Her experiences of the lack of student support and the emphasis

## Internal affairs

Although we should sympathise with Joanna Norris (Your Views, Education, 10 September), whose lecturer husband had an affair with a student, it is irrational to conclude that draconian measures are needed to prevent lecturers from having affairs with their students.

The present Association of University Teachers advice seems sound enough: such relationships should be avoided, but if they happen then steps should be taken to ensure that the student's work is examined by other staff members, and so on.

To call for more American-style policing shows ignorance of the range of motives, circumstances and consequences of such affairs. Of course, there are a few lecherous egomaniacs who serially seduce students, but there can also be sincere romantic attachments. Lectur-

ers may abuse power, but so may students. Yes, marriages can be damaged by such affairs, but then again, they can occasionally be made by them.

I don't deny that, generally, it is immature and unprofessional for academics to behave in this way. But we should not let the reality of exploitation lead to crude caricatures of these situations, or to over-zealous disciplinary procedures.

PIERS BENN  
Lecturer, School of Philosophy  
University of Leeds

## Stricter marking?

Tony Mooney's problem (EDUCATION, 3 September) has nothing to do with the introduction of the modular system but is instead caused by the fact that teachers assess the laboratory work in some A-level science courses and this assessed mark contributes 20 per cent to the final A-level grade. But at the same time league tables of school results are published so that there is immense pressure on the science teachers to get the best results.

I am not suggesting that science teachers would do anything as crude as marking something right that is wrong, but there are many subtle ways of indicating what is coming up for assessment, eg by doing something very similar the previous week.

Nationwide, students do brilliantly on assessed coursework, far better than on the corresponding theory papers or practical exam; so perhaps the exam boards are just trying to correct for this inflation. After all they have been criticised for letting standards slip.

JOHN BAKER  
Hove,  
East Sussex

## No war zone

The title of Elizabeth Hartley-Brewer's article, "How parents can learn to talk to the enemy" (EDUCATION, 3 September) gives the impression of a state of war in the schools between teachers and parents. The article depicts teachers as not only unhelpful, but also aggressive and negative towards parents.

Of course, it is true that a small minority of teachers will exhibit these characteristics, as one would expect in any large employment group. However, the majority of teachers, in my experience, are genuinely interested in their pupils and give considerable time to liaising with parents in a positive and caring way.

Ms Hartley-Brewer's somewhat patronising suggestions about how to improve relationships between teachers and parents are likely to be applicable to only a small number of teachers. To tar all teachers with the same brush will have thoroughly depressed them, particularly as many of them will have been returning to their first days teaching in a new academic year.

The article is offensive and divisive and will serve only to make an already extremely difficult job even more so.

JOHN SHERRINGTON  
Truro,  
Cornwall

Please send your letters to Wendy Bertner, Editor, Education +, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL. Include a daytime telephone number. Fax letters to Education + on 0171-253 2451; e-mail: [educ@independent.co.uk](mailto:educ@independent.co.uk). Letters may be edited.

## PASSED/FAILED

ED STOURTON, BBC REPORTER



Ed Stourton, 40, presents the One O'Clock News on BBC1. He has been the Washington correspondent and diplomatic editor of ITN and presented Call Ed Stourton for Radio 4. Faith in the Frontline, his BA series on Catholicism which begins with Father Charlie Brown of the Vatican ideological police, runs from Monday to Friday, from next week. Absolute Truth, the title of his BBC2 four-parter and also the book of the series, starts on 27 September.

## Not a sausage?

At eight, I was sent to Avisford in Sussex, a family-run Catholic prep school where the headmaster had 11 children. It was - for a certain type of outgoing, self-confident boy - a garden of Eden. My chief memories of those years are of hazy summer fields seen from the top of a tree. At the age of 12 I found a half-eaten sausage in the holy-water stoop of the chapel. My fellow prefects and I went about our search for the culprit with a grim determination; we all knew that we were in the presence of evil!

## Ed start?

At 12 I was rather large and the headmaster said, "Go to Ampleforth" (the Benedictine monastery and public school in a North Yorkshire valley). I left a term early and got a minor scholarship to Ampleforth.

Sooty along to vespers? I remember looking at my house and thinking it

the interview, I hadn't decided whether to read Chinese or English. The don who taught Mandarin was incredibly fierce: "You will spend all afternoons with headphones on in the language laboratory! You will do nothing else!" The English don was kind and said, "See you in September". Then I decided: I read English.

## Union dues?

After the first-year exams, my director of studies took me for a walk in the Fellows Garden and said, "There is a chance you could get a first but you'd have to do nothing else - and then you might not get it." I became president of Cambridge Union. I'd done a certain amount of speaking at school, when I was on the Ampleforth debating team that won the Observer mace.

## MIS MA?

I got a 2.1. The kind English don who had interviewed me may have been connected to the security services because, after going down, several of us taught by him got letters from an illegible signature somewhere in Whitehall - MIS or MI6, clearly the spies: "It has been suggested that you might be interested in a post in the field of foreign affairs not covered by the usual diplomatic entry procedures." I replied, "Thank you very much but I've got a job at ITN." They wrote back saying, "Let us know if you change your mind before you're 27."

Why 27, I don't know.

JONATHAN SALE

A-Z OF UNIVERSITIES  
ULSTER

Age: Thirty, if you count from when the New University of Ulster was born in 1968, or 14, from its merger with Ulster Poly.

History: Origins date from Magee College in Londonderry founded by a local philanthropist in 1865. Other constituent parts were tacked on later: the Belfast campus came into being when the art college was gobbled up by Ulster Poly in 1971. Jordanstown was formerly the campus of Ulster Poly.

Address: Four different sites spread out over Northern Ireland - up to 80 miles apart.

Ambience: Depends on campus. Belfast, housing art and design, is the smallest site. Derry site is attractive, just north of the walled city. Coleraine, the university's HQ, is a small, quiet market town a few miles from lovely Antrim coast with countryside all around. Jordanstown is the largest site and still expanding. Situated on the hills above Belfast, it has good views over the Lough.

Vital statistics: More than 21,000 students make it the biggest university in Ireland.



Added value: Links with further education colleges make for accessibility. And the university is about to announce a revolutionary new credit transfer system.

Easy to get into? For optometry you need AAB at A-level; for geography CDD; for engineering BCC.

Glittering alumni: Labour MP Kate Hoey; Gerry Anderson, radio presenter; Brian Friel, Eurovision songwriter; Brian Keenen, ex-postage; Brian Robinson, Irish rugby player. Transport links: Trains

and coaches ply between Coleraine, Belfast and Derry. Flights go almost everywhere from Belfast International airport.

Who's the boss? Prof Trevor Smith, a fervent Lib Dem who was made a peer and is now Lib Dem education spokesman in the House of Lords.

Teaching: Rated 17 out of 24 for sociology; 18 for Iberian languages and studies; 19 for German and civil engineering; 20 for French and electrical and electronic engineering; 21

for land and property management, and communications and media; 22 for theatre studies and American studies.

Research: Came 55 out of 101 in the assessment exercise. Achieved top-top 5\* in biomedical sciences and a 5 in history.

Financial health: In the red for the last three years, according to Noble's Higher Education Financial Yearbook. In 1996-97, the latest year for which figures are available, it was overdrawn by more than £3.5m. Ulster disagrees.

Nightlife: Plenty of pubs in Derry. Social life for Coleraine students is in the seaside towns where they live. Jordanstown has three bars and its Assembly Hall.

Cheap to live in? Yes. Three-bed council house to rent for £40 per week. Single room in hall costs £34.16 a week. Private furnished lets are around £300 a month for a three-bed house or flat.

Buzzword: What about ye? (How're you doing?)

Next week: UMIST

LUCY HODGES



# A PhD just isn't enough

Career management is now a vital skill for postgraduate students.

By Stephen Pritchard

**G**raduates in science and engineering who stay on at university to take a research degree face an intellectual challenge, but also a fragmented and confusing job market. For a bright scientist or engineer, a doctorate is a respectable career move which opens the door to a career as an academic, or in research in industry. But even though grants are easier to come by than in the arts and humanities, the cost of further study, not least the loss of earnings from foregoing a graduate salary, is putting students off in fields where they can command impressive pay cheques.

Heads of departments in fields such as computer sciences and chemical engineering say postgraduate places are hard to fill, as good graduates can command salaries of £20,000 or more in the private sector. By contrast, the best-paid studentship is unlikely to be more than half that sum. "These people could be offered between £16,000 and £20,000 to start as being asked to stay on at university on less than £10,000," confirms Professor P. J. Hegg, head of the chemical engineering department at UMIST. "These people have to be very dedicated."

The picture, though, is different in other parts of science. Biological and life sciences have low starting salaries, fewer commercial jobs, and more intensive competition for postgraduate places.

Nor is money the only factor. In pure or fundamental science, a PhD will be the prerequisite for promotion in many jobs, even outside the university sector. In engineering, it is less relevant.

"Life sciences are different from phys-

ical sciences and engineering is different again," explains Mike Gavin, careers adviser at Cambridge University.

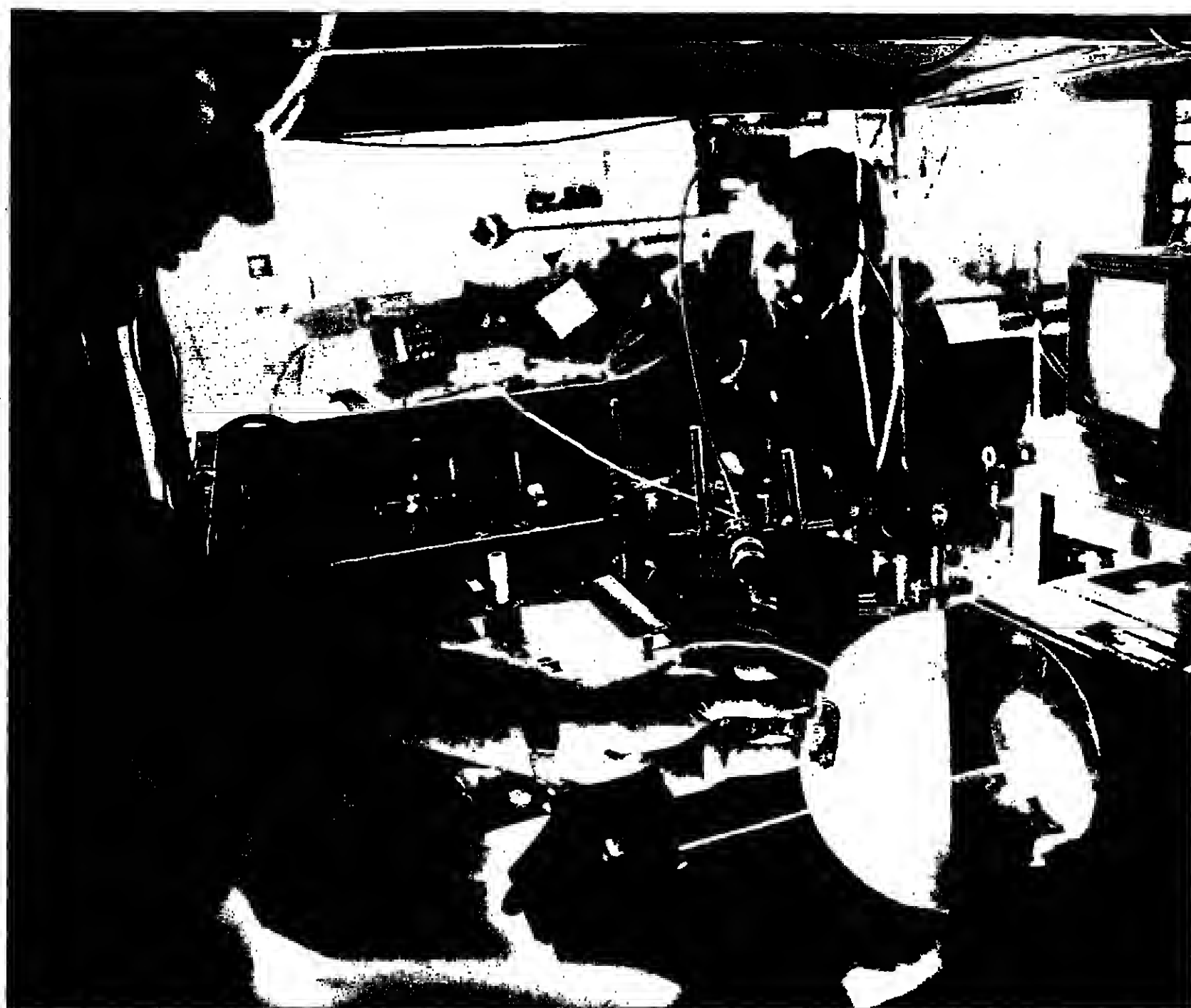
The difficulty for graduates embarking on a higher degree in any discipline is that there is no guarantee at all of work at the end of the process. The supply of PhD places is not tied to any quota of academic appointments, post-doctoral research posts, or jobs in industry. Instead, the limiting factor is the pockets of the research councils, which fund the state studentship scheme, or of students themselves.

More PhD graduates are going on to careers in commercial research and in business generally, helped by the training in transferable skills such as communications, presentations and IT which most doctoral students now receive. Academia is still the prime choice of many, though, and even a PhD is often not enough to obtain a lecturer's job. Instead, a period of between one and three years as a postdoctoral research fellow is the normal next stage.

"The availability of lectureships is not high, so even if you do a PhD, and follow it with a research fellowship, you would not be guaranteed a job in research. But you would have to do that to be qualified for one," Mike Gavin explains.

At each stage in the research career ladder, from first degree to permanent university appointment, the number of applicants falls off - but so does the number of vacancies. Broadly, according to universities, the system is in balance, until the newly qualified researchers complete their post-doctoral work.

Then, their age and experience, which should be an advantage, can go against them. Most postdoctoral work is funded by



Postgraduate research in the physical sciences opens doors but there are pitfalls

John Lawrence

the research councils, which have to justify spending larger sums on salaries for better-qualified researchers. Doing so would mean fewer awards all round, so experienced candidates find themselves priced out of the market.

According to Professor Bill Wakeham, pro-rector for research and development at Imperial College London, there are enough initial postdoctoral posts to satisfy most applicants, if they are prepared to move around, either within the UK uni-

versity system, or to Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

"The crunch comes after three years," Professor Wakeham explains. "No university can afford many people purely doing research, so they are on short term contracts from universities or research councils. But as they get older, they become more expensive, so finding money to fund them becomes more difficult."

One initiative designed to help is the Concordat for research staff, drawn up be-

tween the research councils, the unions and the universities. The idea behind the Concordat is to give university staff whose primary work is in research, rather than teaching, a properly managed career path.

The Concordat has brought improvements in training, and careers advice, but it has done little to address the shortage of academic appointments in general, and pure research posts in particular.

This does not mean that researchers in science and engineering cannot find re-

warding work. Trends including the teaching pressures on lecturers, and the growing importance of inter-disciplinary study, which can often only be handled by people with the experience and knowledge a PhD brings, are widening the field.

For the ambitious scientist, though, the facts are that there may be the jobs, but there are not as many careers. For new PhD students, career management will rank alongside research techniques in the skills they will have to develop.

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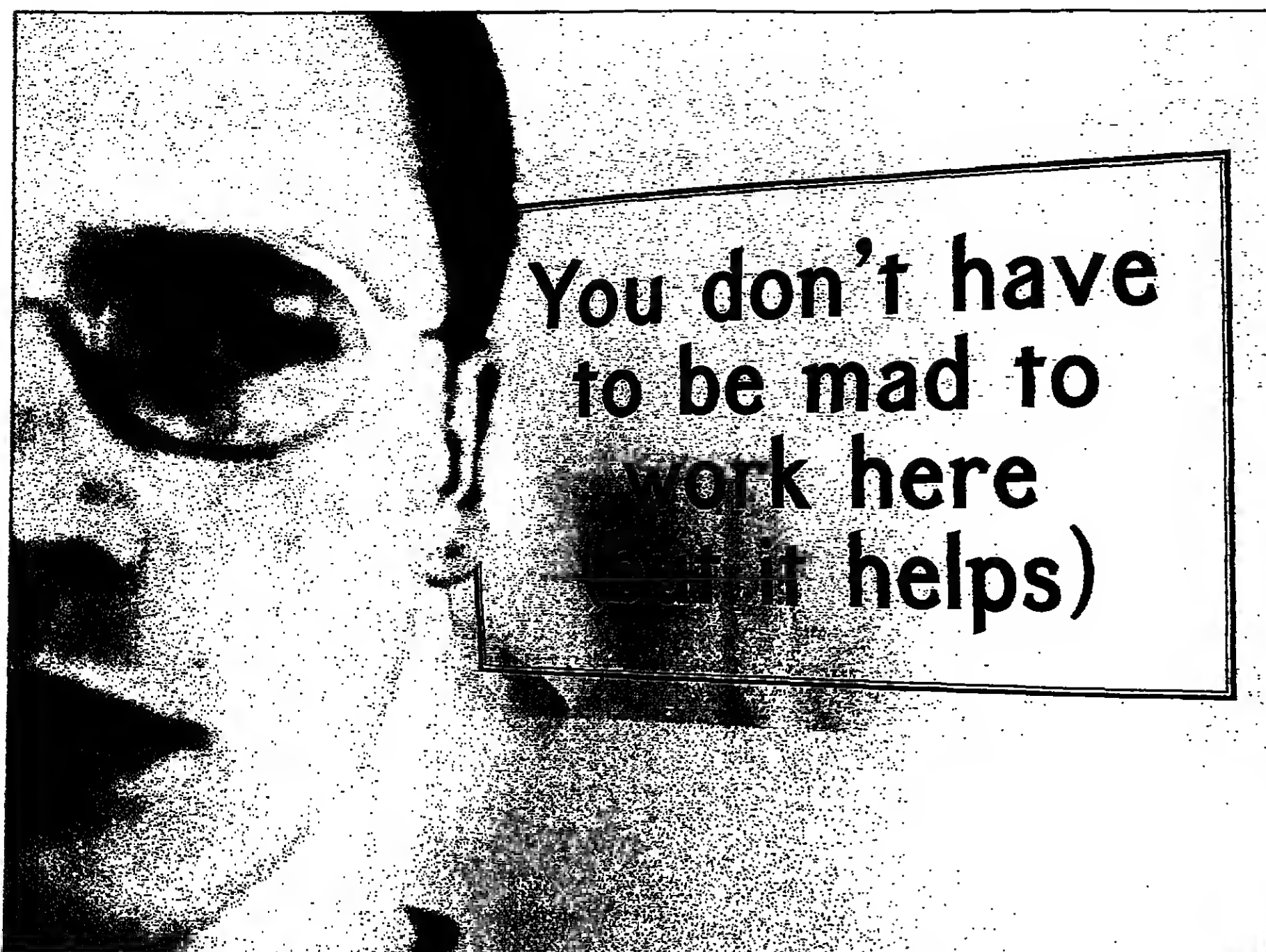


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The only explanation for the spread of such witticisms is that they satisfy some kind of need in the worker's psyche

Nicola Kurtz

## Think you're funny? Tell it to the boss

Developing a sense of humour to go with your job can be a funny old thing. By Jenny Madden

THERE'S AN *Alas Smith and Jones* sketch from many years ago which goes something like this: Socrates is sitting at the bar of a pub in ancient Greece dispensing nuggets of philosophical wisdom to the uninterested barman when another customer walks up. While buying a drink, he comments: "You don't have to be mad to work here, but it helps." Upon this, the bar manager looks greatly excited and exclaims: "That's the best thing I've ever heard. I'll write it down and put it up behind the bar!" (Much to poor Socrates' disgust.)

Humorous notices of the "You don't have to be mad to work here" type are an institution. Visit shops, offices, pubs and restaurants across the country and you'll find them nestled among the other notices on the wall or pinned to a computer or till. While these are often crude, handwritten copies of signs someone has seen or photocopies of an original, the only explanation for the spread of such witticisms is that they satisfy some kind of need in the worker's psyche.

Some workplaces make a point of humour. Soho hang-out The Dive Bar is covered in such placards. Some of the reminders to staff read: "Tell me again how lucky I am to work here, I keep forgetting"; "Stupid mistakes are always made by others, we only make unavoidable errors"; and "In case of atomic attack, keep calm, don't panic, run like hell and pay your bill".

Bar manager Mike Cowell says the wife of the boss has been adding slogans to the bar for many years. "She's been collecting them since the early Eighties," he says. And does she really find them funny, or is this some kind of kitsch statement? Mr Cowell says it's not meant to be kitsch: "She finds these things genuinely funny, not naïf."

While The Dive Bar may have turned into something of a shrine to this kind of humour, the most common place you'll find the humorous poster or placard lurking in the reception areas, typing pools and kitchens of offices across Britain. There, they exist to brighten up the dull moments, even when the joke has long since ceased to be funny.

So who makes these things, and are they still in mass production? Lindsey Parsons, at Southampton-based giftware manufacturers Russberry, remembers that when the company started up in the Sixties, humorous placards were all the rage. But she says they haven't included them in the range for many years: these days, it seems, office humour has grown up - in Britain, at least. "There's just not the demand for that sort of thing any more: it's too American for the British sense of humour," she claims.

Ms Parsons does appear to have a point. Some would argue that British humour is renowned for crudely and insight, and for the unique flavour of its dark comedy. According to this line of thinking, the only place a "You don't have to be mad to work here but it helps" notice would summon a laugh would be hanging in the offices of an organisation such as MIND, which employs some staff who have suffered from mental illness.

But in most other locations, these notices are considered old-fashioned and jokey. Office humour functions in the same way as the material of a comedian like Brian Conley: it's more of a comfort valve than a proactive attempt to induce mirth, but it nevertheless still finds a place in some people's hearts.

The easy accessibility of the office photocopier probably explains why once one office humour poster has got into the office, it can spread throughout, bored staff pasting legends into every corner such as "Our boss is always right; misinformed perhaps, sloppy, crude, bullheaded, bad-tempered, fickle and even stupid but never wrong!" and "Rule No.1: The boss is always right. Rule No.2: If the boss is wrong see No.1".

Oddly enough, while these digs at the boss might be considered risqué, it's often the boss who introduces the office humour into the workplace first. Could this attempt at giving the staff packaged and controlled weapons of protest be aimed at stopping them from actually talking back or complaining? This is the theory of Ben Spelman, the ad sales manager on a London legal magazine, who recently grew so weary of his boss's ardour for collecting and pinning up office humour posters

that he led an insurrection by encouraging fellow workers to illustrate "You don't have to be mad to work here, but it helps" placards with their own interpretations of madness. "Office humour is just a purchasable dissent, an accepted outlet for dissatisfaction. It's as oppressive a part of the office as fluorescent lighting," Spelman explains.

It is a well-known truism that the British find it difficult to complain. Perhaps office humour's success is down to the way it provides a means of articulating our resentment at work but in a non-confrontational and ultimately ineffective manner. Brits are often happier to make jokes in the "mustn't grumble" vein than they are to confront their superiors and voice dissatisfaction. Office humour is like the modern-day blitz spirit - meant to keep you smiling through, no matter what the problem is.

And that's why office humour is here to stay. In the days where almost everyone has access to photocopiers, faxes and now e-mail, office humour has taken on a life of its own. It may not be purchased in the quantity it once was, but it will exist and multiply as long as there is a bored, mischievous little devil in every office.

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Andrew Marshall, agony uncle and president of the British Men's Counselling Association, says: "Some people relish a fight, finding it brings out the best in them, while others feel ground down and depressed. It sounds like you belong in the second camp, and if you are not sleeping now, how will you feel if this dispute takes 18 months to grind through the courts? I was in the same situation where I was made redundant and not being offered what my contract stipulated. Believing that each of us has only so much emotional energy, I thought I would do better using mine to look to the future. It is on old cliché, but as one door closes another opens; I decided I could not move on if the

### A-Z OF EMPLOYERS JOHNSON MATTHEY

Age: 181 "and still going strong".

**History:** The grandly-named Percival Norton Johnson, an assayer and gold refiner, established his business in London's Hatton Garden in 1817, but it was not until 34 years later that he formed a partnership with George Matthey. In 1891, the business became a limited company; nearly a century on, it turned into a plc. Johnson Matthey's reputation is established in technology for precious metals and materials; it pioneered industrial application of platinum group metals, used in fields as diverse as air pollution control and anti-cancer treatments. Other uses are in manufacture of fine chemicals and the generation of clean energy in fuel cells.

**Address:** Head office is in London, just off Trafalgar Square, but the company is multinational and operates in 38 countries. It also has 17 sites in the UK, and a sponsored programme in the United States.

**Ambience:** While the company is global, individuals are easily "noticed", says a spokesman. There is a decentralised structure, with four operating divisions (precious metals, catalytic systems, electronic materials and ceramic materials), with a company-wide policy of open communication and team spirit. Innovation and the Japanese "kaizen" theory (continuous improvement) are also part of the corporate culture. Employees, claims a spokesman, "tend to stay with the company for many years". The Corporate Research Foundation reports that the company is characterised by fast decision-making and local responsibility, together with a reputation for integrity. "The Johnson Matthey of today is much less bureaucratic, and a lot slicker and faster."

**Vital statistics:** The company is listed on the London Stock Exchange and is a constituent of the FTSE-250.

It employs 12,600 people globally, with more than half in the US. Last year's operating profit was £199.2m, with a before-tax profit of £130.2m.

**Lifestyle:** Graduates are drawn quickly into customer-service teams "and given the opportunity to shine". There is plenty of opportunity for bright sparks to travel and move to different positions within the business.

**Easy to get into?** Sparky, action-oriented people will thrive at this company: clones should not apply. Just 15 graduates will be recruited in the next year (more are recruited in the US), and those with languages have an advantage, although any type of degree will do if you are after a sales or marketing position. Those with science and engineering degrees - chemistry, metallurgy and chemical and automotive engineering, in particular - are considered for research, development and production.

**Glittering alumni:** None to speak of, although three board members have clocked up nearly 100 years of service between them.

**Pay:** Salaries are reputedly competitive, and progression is performance-linked.

**Training:** An intensive business training programme consists of a series of two-day modules for graduate recruits, while there is also on-the-job training. Fast-track middle managers can join a management development programme, and senior managers may end up on a course at INSEAD or Harvard.

**Facilities:** Most offices have canteens; sports and social clubs - including five-a-side football teams - are based at different sites.

**Who's the boss?** Chris Clark is chief executive, having joined in 1962 and progressed through running all the company's sectors.

RACHELLE TRACKER



Johnson Matthey: 12,600 employees worldwide

## I don't want to give in to these bullying tactics

Dear Help Desk

SOME TIME ago I agreed redundancy terms with my boss after eight years with the same company. The agreement was that if I worked for a further six-month period I would get certain benefits. This was confirmed in writing. Now the period is over and my boss is saying that, since I have had time to get another position, he has reduced the amount to be paid. My attempts to argue my case for what was agreed have only resulted in several bitter rows. He has told me that if I fight his decision not only will he withdraw his reduced offer but he will also make it difficult for me to get another job. I have a week to agree or face the consequences. I am not sleeping due to

anxiety about this situation and, at 50 years old, I am finding getting another job very hard. My wife thinks I should accept what I am offered and go without making a fuss. What would be your advice?  
George N

Phillip Wood, head of Employment Unit, Maxwell Bailey Solicitors, says:

Your boss is misguidedly relying upon an established legal principle, that following his breach of the agreement it is up to you to mitigate your loss. If you fail to do so to a reasonable extent, any compensation which a court awards you could be reduced to reflect that failure. That duty to mitigate only arises,

however, once the breach has occurred. You will not be penalised for failing to look for or find another job during the final six months of your employment. You have two choices. You could refuse the reduced amount and sue your employer for the original agreed amount, or accept the reduced amount now and then sue for the balance on the basis that you only did so under duress. Given your employer's threats (which could constitute blackmail), it may be better to pursue the latter course once you have found and started another job.

### HELP DESK

YOUR CAREER PROBLEMS SOLVED

Nick Shannon, occupational psychologist, Acker Deboeck & Company, says: Your boss is playing it tough in the hope that you will go quietly for less money than was agreed. He is pressuring you to accept his revised offer by imposing a time limit and threatening to make it difficult for you to find another job. However you have the upper hand as you have written evidence of the original agreement. What your boss is doing is not only unethical, it is illegal. Why is your boss attempting to do this to you? Perhaps his own situation is not secure and he thinks that by saving some money on your redundancy he will establish some credit. You can turn the tables and avoid the unpleasantness of confronting him again by referring the matter upwards. Set out your situation clearly in a letter to your boss's superior, enclosing a copy of the original terms that were agreed, with a copy to your boss. Insist that the company stick to what was agreed, and ask for a prompt resolution. In the meantime you might contact your solicitor to find out what the legal proceedings are should it become necessary.

Andrew Marshall, agony uncle and president of the British Men's Counselling Association, says: "Some people relish a fight, finding it brings out the best in them, while others feel ground down and depressed. It sounds like you belong in the second camp, and if you are not sleeping now, how will you feel if this dispute takes 18 months to grind through the courts? I was in the same situation where I was made redundant and not being offered what my contract stipulated. Believing that each of us has only so much emotional energy, I thought I would do better using mine to look to the future. It is on old cliché, but as one door closes another opens; I decided I could not move on if the

old door was left ajar by litigation. So I asked a lawyer friend to negotiate on my behalf. He significantly improved the offer and I was able to leave with my dignity intact. The crisis made me reassess my working life and I have changed direction into something far more personally rewarding. Good luck at turning your problem into an opportunity.

Compiled by Carmen Fielding

If you have a work problem and want expert advice, write to Carmen Fielding, Fast Track Features, The Independent, Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171 293 2451; e-mail: fielding@independent.co.uk

Spelling 1520



# Danger: you've got a job

Violence in the workplace is on the increase, and one of the highest risk areas is the retail industry – especially for graduates. By Kate Hilpern

Most of us are out with the dangers of violence on the streets and even in the home. If there aren't dark alleys and dodgy cab drivers to worry about, there are aggressive partners. What we are rarely warned about, however, is the increasing risk of brutality in the workplace. After all, employers will always take steps to protect you, won't they? If not, surely a colleague would shield you?

Don't be so sure. According to the Health and Safety Executive, there has been a significant increase in the number of violent attacks by colleagues and clients in the workplace, and not just in the most obviously dangerous jobs. Schools and libraries, for instance, are higher risk environments than ever before. And according to the Suzy Lamplugh Trust – named after the young estate agent who disappeared without a trace in the course of her work – more and more market researchers and social workers have to cope with being threatened with dogs or being punched and spat at.

Meanwhile, staff from housing departments have the odd kitchen sink or toilet buried at them. One was even held hostage by two 65-year-olds. And while the British Crime Survey does not have a specific category for workplace violence, it does note "acquaintance violence" which accounts for about half of all attacks on men and one third of all attacks on women. A staggering 23 per cent of these incidents involve a customer or client, and around 20 per cent occur at work.

Retailing has become a particularly prominent danger area in the late Nineties. The British Retail Consortium's crime survey reported that this year, violent incidents against retail staff had increased by 44 per cent to 13,000. Nathan Flatman remembers his experience as a new graduate last year. "I was employed as a supervisor of the toy department in a major store and at Christmas, it was not unusual for customers to get very irate when we didn't stock the things they wanted. Because we were their last line of attack, they could get very aggressive and they sometimes even resorted to pushing us around."

Indeed, claims Flatman – who now works for the Suzy Lamplugh Trust – just as retailing is high risk in terms of a working environment, graduates are high risk in terms of becoming victims. "Generally, graduates are still a bit under-confident in the workplace and have not learnt that sometimes it is better to refuse to get into certain situations than just trying to please the boss."

In addition, maintains the Trust, graduates are used to working individually at university. The result? They are less likely to attempt to decrease the risk of violence by asking to work as part of a team. "Graduates working in financial services, marketing or sales, for instance, are likely to visit clients in their homes alone, even if they feel vulnerable."

The fact that in the Nineties the customer is king is also relevant, says Cary Cooper, Professor of Or-



Nathan Flatman, 'pushed around' by irate customers when he was taken on as a toy department supervisor

Nicola Kurtz

ganisational Psychology at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. "In an insecure working climate, fresh graduates become afraid to stand up for their rights. They are so aware of the Patient's Charter and consumer rights that some of them actually set themselves up to be abused."

To top it all, claims Cooper, employers are not doing enough about it. Flatman agrees. There are five main pieces of legislation relevant to violence at work, he says, ranging from the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 to the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995. "Yet like many graduate drives, the personal safety training for my new job lasted just half an hour."

So what needs to be learned? Sarah Simpson, training director of the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, explains: "At the most basic level, it's essential for employees to leave information with a colleague about where they are and keep in touch if plans are changed. I know it's common sense, but it's truly amazing how many people simply don't do it."

In addition, there are specific techniques for dealing with another person's anger. "The way you sit, stand and relate to them, as well as what you wear, can have an effect. Hands on the hips, for instance, can be seen as confrontational – as can too much eye contact or moving closer to the person even if it's to put an arm round them." Employees – especially graduates – also need to be aware that their predecessors may have caused the perpetrator to be agitated. A customer could, for example, have been promised something that they never received.

Getting to know the psychology of the angry customer/colleague is vital, according to all training organisations. But the skill of personal safety training for my new job lasted just half an hour. "It's one way of ensuring that the employer will provide more extensive training."

The fact is, however, that even the most sophisticated policies and procedures for safety cannot guarantee that a violent incident will never occur. This is why aftercare – such as critical debriefing or trauma counselling – is as important as training, emphasises counsellor Thelma Williams. "Depression, fear, headaches and flashbacks are typical responses to traumatic experiences. Very often, these responses resolve themselves in a few days, but when sufferers fail to acknowledge their emotions about the event, they can be heightened or prolonged. They may even lead to post-traumatic stress disorder."

In fact, it is not unusual for such events to trigger off other issues. Williams remembers one woman whose experience of violence at work jolted her memory back to when she was raped some years earlier. "This can happen to witnesses, too. The word 'trauma' comes from the Greek meaning 'to wound'. It doesn't have to mean a wound to the body but to the psyche."

So do most organisations offer aftercare? Unfortunately, they do not. "Counselling still gets a bad press in this country," explains Professor Cary Cooper. "People are quick to say, 'If it's so essential, how come we coped without it 30 years ago?' But 30 years ago, we had extended families and close-knit communities who acted as natural counsellors. Today, society is too polarised for that." Sarah Simpson claims that one day she would like to run a programme focusing on workplace bullying.

"We all read articles like this about violence and harassment and identify with the victims. But we're all capable of becoming irrational, angry and aggressive ourselves. Just look at the way most people treat traffic wardens. For a happy working environment, employees need to be aware of finding themselves on either side of the equation."

The Suzy Lamplugh Trust, 0181-876 0305, or [www.suzylamplugh.org](http://www.suzylamplugh.org)

## CV

DAVID ROBINSON, MD, RICHER SOUNDS

## A career made Richer by redundancy

David Robinson, 32, is MD and deputy chairman of hi-fi specialist Richer Sounds. He took a job in the company's second store as a 16-year-old to bide his time before becoming a draughtsman. But after forging a partnership with a maverick businessman, Julian Richer, that plan had to go back to the drawing board.



David joined Richer Sounds 12 years ago, and is now MD

I LEFT school at 16 and was training to be a draughtsman in my hometown of Stockport.

I was on an HNC course, which was the equivalent to a degree but in technical engineering. It was a bit like an apprenticeship. But the company I was working for went into receivership and I saw a job advertised in Stockport as a salesman in this interesting-looking new hi-fi shop.

It was only the second of the Richer Sounds stores, after Julian had opened the first one in London's Elephant and Castle. I only took it thinking I would work there for a year or so. But I did have some interest in sales, I had always been interested in music and here I am 12 years later, still waiting to finish my draughtsman course.

I met Julian when he was 24 – I was around 16 or 17 – and from day one, his enthusiasm and drive for the business was incredible and you really get swept along by that. He seemed to see something in me that he could mould and we got along very well.

I enjoyed being on the frontline with customers and I did enjoy selling. It was a skill I did not think I had as much as I actually did. The buzz of being with customers was certainly better than looking at a drawing board all day.

Julian made me assistant manager within the first two or three months. And after about 18 months, the manager went off to open a store in Birmingham. So I became the manager at 18.

I had always been a leader at school but it was great to be able to find new things out about myself and learn how to run a team. I was very fortunate because, as we started to expand, Julian was keen to let me go off and help him open other stores. So, by the time we were opening our fifth store, I was travelling around the country and living out of a suitcase.

I was involved in locating the sites and getting the stores off the ground. We had a period of rapid expansion which was exciting, but as Julian says in his book, we probably did a bit too quickly. By 19 or 20, I had moved into a more general role and became operational manager. I was in charge of looking after the day-to-day running of the stores across the whole of the company. I did that for around four years and very fortunately, when I was 25, Julian made me MD.

I was in the thick of things and really enjoying myself at that time. It's one of Julian's strengths that

he's very good at giving people autonomy and I revelled in that. If Julian is the maverick entrepreneur, then I'm the professional manager dealing with the detail and the follow-throughs.

We were both very young when the company was expanding, but it was never a problem dealing with older business people. By that time, we had several stores open and people started to treat us with respect and not look at us so much as if we were this crazy new company. We were always very quick and very pro-active in what we wanted to do and that gives you a certain amount of credibility, too.

Now that I am MD, everything has changed, but I'm still involved in store openings. And I always remind myself that as you grow and develop you have got to keep contact with people and I still have communications with the staff working at the coalface every day. I've been very fortunate in that since the age of around 19 I've been a leading figure in the company. But at Richer Sounds, age and professional qualifications are only as important as enthusiasm and getting involved in the company's culture.

We are very quick to promote people who have skills in a certain field, and that's not always selling. I believe that if we are committed to our own people, then that spills over into how they treat the customers. That's why I'm constantly involved in reviewing the benefits and the perks in the company.

One of the things to give me most satisfaction is developing our holiday homes around the UK and Europe. They are brilliant – any of our staff can book a week and stay at them for free and we have two beach houses and an amazing flat in Paris to boot.

Really, it's all about fun because if you enjoy your job, you do it better. It's about our staff and being involved in a culture. And again, it's that autonomy and recognition of things that you do which has kept me interested and stopped me going back to sit in front of that drawing board.

INTERVIEW BY MARK OLIVER

## Up to their eyes in debt

Graduates are struggling to clear their student overdrafts. By Kate Hilpern

ACCORDING to a recent survey by Barclays Bank, 86 per cent of students think they will be in debt at the end of their course. Pretty high, you might think, but many would be surprised it is not higher. After all, the average student graduating this year can expect to owe almost £4,000. That is around five times the figure from 10 years ago. In the last year alone, there has been a 30 per cent rise in the amount owed to the student loan scheme, and over the last six years, money borrowed from the scheme has risen from under £100m to £700m. So do these enormous sums mean graduates are five times as worried about debt as they were a decade ago?

Apparently not. Graduates are less troubled about their debts and less efficient at repaying them than ever. Barclays' survey claims: "As awareness of debt is increasing, students are becoming more resigned about their lack of money. The number of students who are worried, angry or concerned about their debts has fallen by 9 per cent over the last year to 30 per cent and 21 per cent since 1992." Professor Stephen Lea, economic psychologist at the University of Exeter, agrees: "Today's stu-

dents don't share the same hostility towards debt as the rest of the population. Even their hierarchy of repayment surprises some people. At the bottom of the list are student loans – which often form the biggest debt – yet they are usually not considered as debt at all but merely as credit. Then there are bank overdrafts which start off creating resentment in the first year but,

*'Today's students don't share the same hostility towards debt as the rest of the population'*

as the terms pass, students just get used to them, considering them as the norm. Then at the top of the list are friends and family who are almost always prioritised in terms of worry and repayment."

Naomi Atkinson, a financial adviser, is not surprised. "If graduates know they can get rid of their debt within a very short period of time, they might consider getting it out of the way. But if a single repayment is nothing but a drop in the ocean, they think, why should I bother? Second, the

students tend to manage their money more cautiously than men, with smaller debts," says Dr Alan Lewis, economic psychologist at the University of Bath. "Men, on the other hand, often blow large amounts in the pub and are much less likely than women to do proper accounting while at university."

Julian Goode, 27, graduated in 1985 with more than £7,500 of debt. "I was living in cloud cuckoo land about my salary expectations. Now my credit card bills are really starting to get to me. At least I can put off

the student loan because my salary is low enough that I can keep deferring repayment." This will not be the case for long, however, for the threshold is getting lower. Currently, graduates can defer repayment if they earn under 85 per cent of national average earnings, but soon, students earning more than £10,000 a year will have to start repaying.

When the debt collectors caught up with Suzy Asquith, 27, she left her career. "I had a good job in the media but it didn't pay well. It would have done once I'd worked my way up but I left and went into sales where the money was good enough to start paying back what I owed. But that was a year ago and I'm still having difficulty even getting back into media. I wish I had started paying my debts back earlier. Then I wouldn't be in this awful position."

Prof Lea claims increasing numbers of young people are being encouraged to consider debt as just another aspect of everyday life. "Even by offering students a clear financial package with a realistic repayment system, we could improve this situation," he says. "We need a system which will keep them out of the clutches of overdraft merchants."

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### Legal Notices

**INSOLVENCY ACT 1986**  
**MAINTENANCE AND CASHING (UK) LIMITED**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named Company will be held at 11 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4JP on 24 September 1998 at 2.15pm for the purpose mentioned in Section 99 of the Act.

A list of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors may be inspected free of charge between 10.30am and 5.00pm at 11 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4JP on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting.

Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must submit their written credentials to the Liquidator at 11 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4JP no later than 4.00pm on the business day preceding the date of the meeting.

Dated 16 September 1998  
In Order of the Court  
**BRIAN WELSH** Director

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR NEW JUSTICES LICENCE**  
LICENCE NO. 1994

**COVING**  
Hearings Room, Northampton Court, 70  
Haverhill Road, 2001  
HEARINGS INTENDERS:  
Bessie A. Gossard, P.M. at 10.30am  
P.M. at 2.00pm  
P.M. at 4.00pm  
P.M. at 6.00pm  
P.M. at 8.00pm  
P.M. at 10.00pm  
P.M. at 12.00pm  
P.M. at 2.00pm  
P.M. at 4.00pm  
P.M. at 6.00pm  
P.M. at 8.00pm  
P.M. at 10.00pm  
P.M. at 12.00pm

**TAKE NOTICE** that Applications to be made in respect of the above named Company will be heard at the above named Court on the dates and times shown above for the purpose mentioned in Section 99 of the Act.

Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must submit their written credentials to the Liquidator at 11 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4JP no later than 4.00pm on the business day preceding the date of the meeting.

Dated 16 September 1998  
In Order of the Court  
**BRIAN WELSH** Director

**THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986**  
**CROSSLAND TRANSPORT LTD**

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## NEW FILMS

**BABYMOOTHER (15)**  
Director: Julian Henrichs  
Starring: Anjela Lauren Smith, Wil Johnson, Caroline Chikezie  
An endearing reggae musical which takes an old idea and douses it in gaudy colours - quite literally, in fact, given that it sometimes looks as though the print has been splattered with Day-Glo paint. Anjela Lauren Smith is a "baby-mother" - a woman saddled with children at a young age. She lives in north London and longs to be a reggae star, but her dreams are confounded not only by her responsibility to her son and daughter, but by their calculating father, who feels that his own imminent stardom would be jeopardised by Anita's success. The final musical showdown between the pair is clumsy, but for the most part, this is a fresh and engaging delight. **West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero**

**COUSIN BETTE (15)**  
Director: Des McAnuff  
Starring: Jessica Lange, Elisabeth Shue, Bob Odenkirk  
Balzac's novel about romance and deception in 19th-century France is the basis for this shallow but breezy comedy. Jessica Lange plays Bette, who is appointed housekeeper to the family of her late cousin. In the pursuit of love in her own life, she inadvertently weaves a web of betrayal around everyone she knows - her cousin's daughter, Hortense (Kelly McDonald), her actress friend Jenny Cadine (Elisabeth Shue), and most of all Wenceslas (Aden Young), a sculptor to whom Bette has designed to play benefactor. Although the director Des McAnuff can't keep his film from wandering, there are enough precious comic moments to make it a pleasing diversion. **West End: ABC Baker Street, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage**

**SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15)**  
Director: Steven Spielberg  
Starring: Tom Hanks, Edward Burns, Matt Damon  
Steven Spielberg's Second World War drama focuses on a mission with more than a hint of

public relations about it. Three brothers are killed in action, and their mother is about to receive the triple-dose of bad news in one go; the fourth and youngest, James Ryan, is still in combat. Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks) is dispatched with his squad to seek out the young Private behind enemy lines and return him home to safety. It is unlikely that many viewers will emerge from the picture warmed by emotional catharsis, though there is plenty of it in evidence. It is the harsh, devastating battle sequences which are branded on the memory, and which momentarily suggest that the film will be something more adventurous and resonant than your average war movie. It isn't. But the promise alone is, in itself, strangely compelling.

The real achievement of *Saving Private Ryan* is that Spielberg has managed to create anything remotely worthwhile out of Robert Rodat's screenplay. Rodat throws together so many clichés that at times it seems that most of Spielberg's energy is expended in distracting us from the tawdriness of the material. This he does most effectively in the combat scenes, where subjective sound and photography create a disturbing sense of chaos. It was an error to once again use John Williams as composer, but for most of these lapses of judgement there are compensations, most often found in the cast. **West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle, Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith, Virgin, Notting Hill, Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero**

**LA VIE DE JESUS (THE LIFE OF JESUS) (NC)**  
Director: Bruno Dumont  
Starring: David Douche, Marjorie Cottereau, Genevieve Cottereau, Kader Costantini  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right  
**ICA Cinema**

Ryan Gilbey

## THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

### Film Ryan Gilbey



THE UNLINKING, blank-eyed coolness of Bruno Dumont's *La Vie de Jésus* is mirrored in the inscrutable face of the film's main character, Freddy (David Douche) lives in a dull French town. His passions are his motorbike and his girlfriend, Marie (Marjorie Cottereau). He is a small fish in a small pond. Dumont's first feature comes on like *Les Ombres* on downers; his characters are earthy and even ugly, but there is a plain sanctity in his depiction of them which approaches the essence of compassionate film-making. **On selected release**  
As someone who has resisted the X-Files on television, I found the movie version (above) moderately enthralling. What I warmed to was the nicely understated, often dryly funny relationship between David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson. There should have been more. As anyone who has caught his cameo on *The Larry Sanders Show* will testify, Duchovny can be a real goofball. **On general release**

### Theatre Dominic Cavendish

BUILDING ON the reputation for provocative writing he established with *Shipping and Packing*, Mark Ravenhill delivers the goods again in the ingenious *Handbag*. Juxtaposing a Wildean prequel to *The Importance of Being Earnest* with brutal scenes showing the various parental crimes of very Nineties couples, it provides a survey of biological complications without daring to suggest solutions. **Lyric Studio, Hammersmith, London W6 (0181-741 8701) 8pm**

*Personals* (right) is a musical revue devised by the creators of *Friends* - David Crane and Marta Kauffman, together with Seth Friedman - and that concentration of talent shines through in sly songs and sketches about the pleasures and pitfalls of dating in the mean metropolis. **New End, London NW3 (0171-794 0022) 7.30pm**



### Pop Tim Perry

NEW ZEALAND songwriter Neil Finn (right), the force behind Crowded House, goes out on the road under his own name for the first time in what is one of the most anticipated tours of the autumn. Always good value live, he'll be playing songs from throughout his career as well as the great poppy rockers that appear on his current album, *Try Whistling This*. Be sure to get there early to catch Arnold, the perfect complementary support act. **Apollo, Oxford (01865 244544) 7.30pm**  
Flushed with the success of "Morning Afterglow", which has spent a few weeks in the singles chart, West Country quintet Electra are approaching the midway point of their extensive British tour. Playing songs from their very worthy *Beautiful Inmate* album, they're more exciting, varied and charismatic than the other, more-hyped Britrock bands. **University, Bradford (01274 23266) 8pm**



### Art Richard Ingleby

OVER THE LAST few years, Tom Hammick has made a name for himself as a painter of endless horizons and big, empty landscapes that hover on the edge of abstraction. His new exhibition marks a change in scale and subject, with his attention now fixed on the minutiae of the world around him. His method, though, is just the same and shows that he's still a subtle painter with a gentle, sophisticated touch. **Eagle Gallery, 159 Farringdon Road, London EC1 (0171-833 2674) to 10 Oct**  
Hammick's work can also be seen this month at the Redfern Gallery in Cork Street (which is, incidentally, celebrating 75 years in the business - happy birthday to them) where they have a selection of his work as a print-maker (right), including *Lido*, a new set of 21 etchings made to accompany poems by Maureen Duffy. **Redfern Gallery, 20 Cork Street, London W1 (0171-734 1732) to 15 Oct**



## GENERAL RELEASE

**ARMAGEDDON (12)**  
This deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a meaty action adventure and a global disaster movie in which a meteor is on a collision course with Earth. Its jumble of styles will end up pleasing no one. **West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End**

**THE AVENGERS (12)**  
Ralph Fiennes does the bowler hat and wields the cane as Steed, Uma Thurman pours herself into a catsuit as Emma Peel, while Sean Connery saunters around in a kilt as August De Winter, who plans to take over the world by controlling the weather. **West End: Warner Village West End**

**LE BOSSU (15)**  
Sumptuous swashbucklers are fast becoming French cinema's stock-in-trade. This effort doesn't break much new ground, but is acted and shot with such magnificent braggadocio that its lack of originality is never a problem. **West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Mayfair**

**THE DAYTRIPPERS (15)**  
Worried that her publisher husband may be having an affair, Eliza (Hope Davis) confides in her parents, only to find that the whole family insists on accompanying her to Manhattan for the day to confront him. First-time writer-director Mottola charts the tensions of the family car journey with unerring wit and unexpected compassion. **West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Swiss Centre**

**DR DOLITTLE (PG)**  
The thought of Eddie Murphy functioning within the restrictions of a PG certificate may not be a promising one, but *Dr Dolittle* proves that his talents are surprisingly pliable. **West End: Hammersmith, Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End**

**EVE'S BAYOU (15)**  
Rites-of-passage drama set in Louisiana locations which have been devalued by too many Southern comfort ads. With Samuel L. Jackson, Lynn Whitfield and Debbi Morgan. **West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Trocadero**

**HANA-BI (18)**  
Director-star Kitaro picked up the Golden Lion at last year's Venice Film Festival with this violent yet elegant portrait of a brutal Japanese policeman pushed over the edge by his traumatic personal life. **West End: ABC Shaftesbury Ave**

**HANDS (AKA PALMS) (PG)**  
The director of this harrowing semi-documentary has been compared to Pasolini and Tarkovsky, but though this is an imaginatively realised rumination on the workings of the modern world, the picture is deadening in a way that those directors' best work never was. **West End: Renoir**

**HE GOT GAME (18)**  
The plot of Spike Lee's muddled tale is pure poppycock: Jake Shuttleworth (Denzel Washington) is doing time for the murder of his wife, but is offered a deal which could cut short his sentence if he can persuade his basketball star son to sign up with the Governor's alma mater. Lee coaxes an impressive performance from Washington, but it is his own stylistic excesses which are the film's undoing. **West End: Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero**

**THE HORSE WHISPERER (PG)**  
Robert Redford's film of Nicholas Evans' novel is a textbook lesson in the narcissistic allure of cinema. Redford plays a Montana farmer who specialises in equine psychology. He agrees to help magazine editor Kristin Scott Thomas whose daughter has been traumatised in a riding accident. **West End: Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith, Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road**

**THE LAND GIRLS (12)**  
Rachel Weisz, Anna Friel and Catherine McCormack are the "land girls" called upon in the Second World War to pick up the discarded ploughs and take the place of the farmers who have departed for war. Nothing surprising here - sexual awakening, broad laughs, a smattering of tragedy - but very nicely done. **West End: Screen On The Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End**

**THE LAST DAYS OF DISCO (15)**  
In the fictional club at the centre of Whit Stillman's dry and slightly sad comedy, everything sparkles - under the light from the glitterball, the dancers are united in their absent-minded beauty. Stillman does a fine job of capturing the mixture of flair, invigoration and uncertainty by which any burgeoning trend is characterised and it's refreshing to find a work that is this enchanting and intelligent. **West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Richmond Picturehouse, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End**

**LIVE FLESH (18)**  
Pedro Almodóvar's most accomplished film to date is examined with sexual symbolism so potent it leaves you reeling. **West End: ABC Fanny Street**

**LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (12)**  
This picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high stakes card-game, falls into the former; but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, a dangerous old-school pro. **West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle, Coronet, Hammersmith, Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End**

**LOST IN SPACE (PG)**  
Yet another cult 1960s TV series to get an expensive makeover, but the film-makers have remained faithful to the original tone and the movie looks terrific. **West End: Odeon West End**

**THE REAL HOWARD SPITZ (PG)**  
The *Real Howard Spitz*, a sunny comedy about a children's writer (Kelsey Grammer, aka Frazier) who hates children, is director Vadim Jean's most likeable work. Originality may be thin on the ground, but the direction is breezy and Grammer has a lovely, grouchy demeanour. **West End: UCI Whiteleys**

**THE SPANISH PRISONER (PG)**  
David Mamet's intricate thriller is a playful exercise in twisting a plot until it locks: there is a scientific detachment about the way he explores every permutation but the movie is also slyly funny. **West End: Barbican Screen, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End**

**SPECIES II (18)**  
Ludicrous science-fiction horror about a strand of alien DNA carried back to earth in the bodies of astronauts. **West End: Elephant & Castle, Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero**

**THE WEDDING SINGER (12)**  
A shamelessly dumb but very winning comedy starring Adam Sandler as the eponymous crooner and Drew Barrymore as the waitress he falls for. **West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Warner Village West End**

**THE X-FILES (15)**  
See *The Independent Recommends*, above  
**West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Hammersmith, Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero**

## CINEMA

### WEST END

**ABC BAKER STREET**  
(0171-935 9772) @ Baker Street  
Cousin Bette 12.00pm, 3.40pm, 6.00pm, 8.30pm  
The Daytrippers 1.40pm, 3.50pm, 5.50pm  
Lethal Weapon 4 8.10pm

**ABC PANTON STREET**  
(0171-351 0631) @ Piccadilly  
Circus The Last Days Of Disco 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.00pm, 8.30pm  
Jackie Brown 1.30pm, 4.40pm, 7.45pm  
Live Flesh 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm  
The Spanish Prisoner 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

**ABC PICCADILLY**  
(0171-437 3551) @ Piccadilly  
Circus The Last Days Of Disco 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.00pm, 8.30pm  
Long Island 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

**ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE**  
(0171-836 6279) @ Leicester Square  
Hana-Bi 11.50am, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm  
The Spanish Prisoner 1.25pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

**ABC SWISS CENTRE**  
(0171-351 3722) @ Leicester Square  
Le Bossu 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm  
Dance Of The Wind 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm  
The Daytrippers 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm  
Descent Into Hell 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

**ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD**  
(0171-636 6148) @ Tottenham Court Road  
The Last Days Of Disco 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm  
Saving Private Ryan 1.05pm, 4.40pm, 8.20pm

**BARBICAN SCREEN**  
(0171-382 7000) @ Moorgate/Barbican  
Richter: The Enigma 8.30pm  
Saving Private Ryan 7.50pm  
The Spanish Prisoner 8.20pm

**CHELSEA CINEMA**  
(0171-351 3722) @ Sloane Square  
The Horse Whisperer 1.05pm, 4.25pm, 7.50pm

**CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE**  
(0171-498 2242) @ Clapham Common  
The Horse Whisperer 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.30pm  
The Last Days Of Disco 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm  
Saving Private Ryan 1.30pm, 4.45pm, 8.15pm

**CURZON MAYFAIR**  
(0171-351 3722) @ Green Park  
Le Bossu 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm

**ELEPHANT AND CASTLE CORONET**  
(0171-703 4958) @ Elephant & Castle  
Lethal Weapon 4 6.15pm, 8.30pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm  
Saving Private Ryan 4.05pm, 7.40pm, 9.15pm  
Species II 4.15pm

**EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE**  
(0171-437 1234) @ Leicester Square  
British Short Film Festival phone 090 888955 for details  
The Godfather Part II 8.15pm  
Godzilla 2pm, 5.10pm  
Saving Private Ryan 12pm, 4pm, 8pm

**GATE NOTTING HILL**  
(0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill Gate  
The Spanish Prisoner 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

**HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN**  
(0870-9070718) @ Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith  
The Horse Whisperer 1.20pm, 4.50pm, 8.15pm  
Lethal Weapon 4 9pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm  
Saving Private Ryan 12.20pm, 4.20pm, 8pm  
The X-Files 12.15pm, 3pm, 6pm

**ICA CINEMA**  
(0171-930 3647) @ Charing Cross  
The Connection 6.30pm  
The Trip 8.45pm  
La Vie De Jésus 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

**METRO**  
(0171-437 0757) @ Piccadilly  
Circus/Leicester Square Latin American Film Festival Phone for details

**CURZON MINERVA**  
(0171-369 1723) @ Knightsbridge  
Psycho 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

## NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate  
Saving Private Ryan 1.15pm, 4.35pm, 8pm

**ODEON CAMDEN TOWN**  
(0181-315 4229) @ Camden Town  
Cousin Bette 12pm, 2.50pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm  
The Last Days Of Disco 12.45pm, 3.25pm, 6pm, 8.50pm  
Lethal Weapon 4 8.45pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm  
Saving Private Ryan 12.20pm, 4.10pm, 7.45pm  
The X-Files 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.55pm

**ODEON HAYMARKET**  
(0181-315 4212) @ Piccadilly  
Circus Cousin Bette 12.5pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

**ODEON KENSINGTON**  
(0181-315 4214) @ High Street  
Kensington Cousin Bette 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.40pm  
The Horse Whisperer 1.15pm, 4.55pm, 8.55pm  
The Last Days Of Disco 1.20pm, 4.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm  
Lethal Weapon 4 9.35pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.45pm, 4.25pm, 7.05pm, 9.45pm  
Saving Private Ryan 1.25pm, 4.05pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm

**ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE**  
(0181-315 4215) @ Leicester Square  
The Horse Whisperer 12.50pm, 4.15pm, 7.50pm

**ODEON MARBLE ARCH**  
(0181-315 4216) @ Marble Arch  
Armageddon 3.05pm, 8.50pm  
The Horse Whisperer 1.35pm, 5.10pm, 8.45pm  
Lethal Weapon 4 3pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm  
Saving Private Ryan 1.15pm, 5.05pm, 8.40pm  
Species II 12.55pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm

**ODEON MEZZANINE**  
(0181-315 4215) @ Leicester Square  
Eve's Bayou 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm  
The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm  
Six Days, Seven Nights 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm  
Titanic 12.05pm, 3.45pm, 7.25pm  
The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

**ODEON SWISS COTTAGE**  
(0181-315 4220) @ Swiss Cottage  
Armageddon 2pm, 5pm  
Cousin Bette 12.45pm, 3.25pm, 6pm, 8.30pm  
The Horse Whisperer 1.30pm, 4.55pm, 8.30pm  
Lethal Weapon 4 8.30pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm  
Saving Private Ryan 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 7.45pm  
The Spanish Prisoner 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

**ODEON WEST END**  
(0181-315 4221) @ Leicester Square  
Lost In Space 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm  
The X-Files 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm

**PHOENIX CINEMA**  
(0181-444 6789) @ East Finchley  
The Horse Whisperer 2.30pm, 8.10pm  
The Spanish Prisoner 5.50pm

**PLAZA**  
(0171-437 1234) @ Piccadilly  
Circus Armageddon 1.30pm, 4.45pm, 8pm  
The Castle 6.05pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.30pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8.40pm  
Saving Private Ryan 1.15pm, 7.15pm  
Sliding Doors 1pm, 3.25pm, 8.25pm

**RENOIR**  
(0171-837 8402) @ Russell Square  
Gadjo Dilo 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 9pm  
Hands (aka Palms) 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm

**RIO CINEMA**  
(0171-254 6677) @ Dalston  
Kingland The Last Days Of Disco 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm

**RITZY CINEMA**  
(0171-737 2121/733 2229) @ Br/Brickton  
Babyfather 3.45pm, 5.35pm, 9.20pm  
He Got Game 4.05pm, 9.05pm  
The Last Days Of Disco 1.15pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 9.05pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 4.35pm, 7.05pm, 9.25pm  
The Pillow Book 1.30pm  
Saving Private Ryan 1.45pm, 5.10pm, 8.30pm  
The Spanish Prisoner 1.40pm, 6.50pm

**ACTON**  
PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) @ Park Royal  
Armageddon 11am, 2.10pm, 5.30pm, 8.40pm  
Babyfather 7.50pm, 9.10pm  
Dr Dolittle 12.20pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 9.20pm  
Godzilla 12.10pm, 3.20pm  
The Horse Whisperer 1pm, 4pm, 8.20pm  
Lethal Weapon 4 6.20pm, 8.40pm, 9.20pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 2pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.50pm  
Lost In Space 11.40am, 2.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm  
Saving Private Ryan 12.50pm, 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 5.20pm, 8pm, 9pm  
Species II 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.40pm  
The X-Files 12.40pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm

**SCREEN ON BAKER STREET**  
(0171-486 0036) @ Baker Street  
The Horse Whisperer 3.25pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 6.40pm, 8.55pm  
Saving Private Ryan 3pm, 7.20pm

**SCREEN ON THE GREEN**  
(0171-226 3520) @ Angel/Highbury & Islington  
Saving Private Ryan 3.30pm, 7.40pm

**SCREEN ON THE HILL**  
(0171-435 3366) @ Beltsze Park  
The Land Girls 3.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm

**UCI WHITELEYS**  
(0171-792 3332) @ Bayswater  
Armageddon 2.15pm, 5.35pm, 8.50pm  
Dr Dolittle 2pm, 4.10pm  
He Got Game 3pm  
The Horse Whisperer 1.30pm, 5.05pm, 8.25pm  
The Land Girls 6.20pm, 9.40pm  
The Last Days Of Disco 1.20pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm  
Lethal Weapon 4 6.30pm, 9.20pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.05pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm  
Species II 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm  
The X-Files 12.25pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm

## SCREEN ON BAKER STREET

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The Horse Whisperer 3.25pm  
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The Land Girls 6.20pm, 9.40pm  
The Last Days Of Disco 1.20pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm  
Lethal Weapon 4 6.30pm, 9.20pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.05pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm  
Species II 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm  
The X-Files 12.25pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm

**BECKENHAM**  
ABC (0870 9020412) @ Beckenham Junction  
Dr Dolittle 5.50pm  
The Horse Whisperer 2.20pm, 7.50pm  
Saving Private Ryan 4.85pm  
Species II 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm  
The X-Files 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm

**BECKENHAM**  
ABC (0870 9020412) @ Beckenham Junction  
Dr Dolittle 5.50pm  
The Horse Whisperer 2.20pm, 7.50pm  
Saving Private Ryan 4.85pm  
Species II 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm  
The X-Files 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm

**BECKENHAM**  
ABC (0870 9020412) @ Beckenham Junction  
Dr Dolittle 5.5



## FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

[illegible]







DOCUMENTARIES ARE often guilty of formless disorder on this score. Lying with the Enemy (1982) makes a virtue of that agency-syncretical tendency by inviting parties with zero in common to combat "the television that lights the base and stands back, but, politely, tells you beforehand that it's going to. In this film, a Conservative councillor from Somerset and a tribe of New Age travellers parked in a public near Brighton, sat, across the table and asked each other: What on Earth is the

incomprehension and clash of values were as strong at the end of the week as at the start. Behind her back, the travellers denounce their guest as "xenophobic," "bigoted" and "fascist," which is good if it's true. Even for a *Daily Telegraph* reader, while she made no real attempt to understand their wildly-weeny repugnance of blacks and moans. But although both parties were always confiding to the camera that they weren't getting on, the camera struggled

# Channel 5

**5.00 Guinness Streetfight** (8709), **7.00 Breakfast** (the G) (61722), **8.00 Kitchin** (S) (7502072), **8.40 Breakfast** (S) (745882), **10.05 Sports Challenge** (S) (94987), **10.40 Live!** (S) (403298), **10.55 News: Local News: Weather** (857501), **11.00 Commonwealth Games Grandstand** (83388), **12.00 News: Weather** (T) (9038680), **1.20 Regional news magazines** (804584).

**1.30 Commonwealth Games Overstrand**, includes the men's 100m final (14pm) and the women's 5000m trial (2pm) (S) (T) (2458).

**3.00 Mafingbeurs** (S) (6107386), **3.25 Williams' Wish** (Wilmington) (S) (6140123).

**3.30 Childerley's SSC: Wacky Play** (S) (493833), **3.35 Playdays** (S) (7501853), **3.45 Rupera** (S) (782248), **4.30 M. Wynni** (S) (881778), **4.35 Cartoon Critics** (S) (838688), **5.00 Newscornd** (B) (T) (838611), **5.40 Byker Grove** (S) (T) (882251).

**5.35 Noddyhouse**, Nick gave a job in Pt. the Poor Lamb. And Sarah missees her exam (S) (T) (25185).

**5.30 Today's the Day** (S) (T) (662).

**7.00 Childerley's SSC: Teatime** (S) (1303088), **7.55 Smurfs Adventure** (R) (838785), **7.45 Blue Fairy** (S) (T) (8438), **8.45 North Island** (R) (S) (488882), **8.55 Williams' Wish** (Wilmington) (S) (T) (250181), **9.40 Secret Life of Toys** (R) (S) (947530).

**9.00 Commonwealth Games Overstrand**, Weightlifting, boxing and netball (S) (27330).

**11.00 [GUILF] The Bank Dick** (Edward Cline 1940 US). W.C. Fields lands a job in a bank. See film of the Day, below (273265).

**12.40 The Cats in the Hat** (S) (825723), **12.30 Working Class** (S) (T) (8280), **1.30 Patriciot** (T) (7278282), **2.20 Heard from Newbury** (S) (816604), **2.55 News: Commonwealth Games Weather** (R) (8372359), **3.00 Commonwealth Games Grandstand** and Racing from Newbury (S) (7880398), **4.25 Peaky, Sleazy Cook** (S) (T) (854035), **4.55 Esther** (S) (T) (8601340).

**5.00 ONLY** (88275), **5.25 Versus** (S) (T) (849494), **10.45 The Morning** (T) (840325), **12.30 Your Shot** (847185), **12.30 News: Weather** (T) (6234), **1.00 London Today** (T) (86727), **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (S) (T) (7053494), **2.45 Home and Away** (S) (T) (732038), **2.45 East Supermarket Bazaar** (S) (T) (73107), **3.45 MN News Headlines** (T) (640307), **3.50 London Today** (S) (849820).

**3.25 Children's TV: Wizard** (R) (846554), **3.35 Kipper Bear** (S) (842305), **3.45 The Adventures of Paddington Bear** (S) (T) (822408), **4.40 Knight Dragon** (T) (853404).

**5.40 Home and Away** (S) (T) (837235).

**5.40 News: Weather** (T) (60307).

**7.00 The Big Steakout** (S) (T) (5482), **8.00 Bewitched** (T) (7925).

**9.30 FILM Chorus Jones** (Ohio Premiere 1954 US). Unseen movie version of this all-black Broadway musical which changes Black setting from Memphis Spain to a paracultural factory in Jackson, Florida, with the libretto rewritten by Oscar Hammerstein II. Dorothy Dandridge (singing voice dubbed by Marilyn Horne) is a spectacular Carmen, but Harry Belafonte is miscast as the man she destroys (T) (88038).

**11.30 Moving People** (447), **12.00 Seaview Street** (34456), **12.30 Dream of Hermie** (5082), **12.00 Watercolor Challenge** (9358), **The Electric House** (8755562).

**1.55 FILM China a Crooked Shadow** (Michael Anderson 1951 UK). An outlaw brother and his wife die in a car crash, turns up to claim the inheritance. But is he an impostor? With Richard Todd (T) (8682920).

**3.30 Cheats** (800) (S) (T) (658), **4.00 Prisoner to One** (S) (T) (644), **4.30 Countdown** (S) (T) (87028), **4.55**

**6.00 S. News and Sport** (S) (844398), **7.00 Healthy Diet** (S) (T) (42382), **7.40 Wildlife** (S) (840038), **7.55 What's News?** (S) (87017), **8.00 Hummers** (S) (888338), **8.30 Hampshire Farm** (S) (851123), **8.40 Farms and Fortunes** (R) (851454), **8.55 Russell Gains' Postcards** (834582), **9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show** (R) (S) (7282388), **10.20 Sunset Beach** (S) (T) (444725), **11.00 Leases** (S) (458382), **12.00 5 News at Noon** (S) (888611), **12.30 Family Affairs** (S) (T) (239165), **1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful** (S) (T) (420251), **1.30 Sons and Daughters** (2354458), **2.00 100 Per Cent Gold** (S) (8571235).

**2.30 Open House with Gloria Hunniford**. Jimmy Hill needs no further invitation (S) (8186330).

**3.30 FILM Chief Crazy Horse** (George Sherman 1955 US). So-called Indian chief Victor Mature as the Dakicé-Soux chief, Crazy Horse (2388383).

**5.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show** (8543036).

## FILM OF THE DAY

**6.30 Regional News.** And weather (T) (895).

**7.00 Watchdog.** Anne Robinson and Alice Beer return with their consumer-advocate magazine (S) (T) (827).

**7.30 Eastenders.** Sanyal has a party. It'll end in tears - it always does in Albert Square (S) (T) (835).

**8.00 Ground Force.** Changing Rooms in the garden, sort of, as Alan Titchmarsh and his helpers set about creating a slice of north Africa in north London for a family of four from Morocco (S) (T) (649).

**8.30 The Shop.** Continuing docu-soap tracing the refurbishment of Berkhings in Oxford Street. Where are the Rich Larian owners' hand? (S) (T) (432).

**8.00 News** Regional News Weather (T) (872).

**8.30 FIVE Congo** (Frank Marshall 1895 US). Muddled Saturday-morning adventure, scripted by Michael Crichton and filmed by Dylan Weller as a primebigot who is taking a liking to the wife of Congolese demagogue, a sinister lost city and Laura Linney's luscious explorer, who is searching for her missing fiancé (S) (T) (65046).

**11.00 Roan Neeshamish** (43847).

**11.25 FIVE The Antennae Strain** (Robert Wies 870 US). The eccentric Michael Crichton script of the night involves an extra-terrestrial virus landing in small-town Alaska; far less presidentially in the 1890s (435082).

**1.35 Ten-Minute Match** (2653470).

**1.30 Commonwealth Games Grandstand** (58845586), To Sam.

**6.35 Commonwealth Games Grandstand.** Desmond Lyman introduces highlights from the day's competition in Kuala Lumpur, including the final of the men's 100m, with Shaun Bailey's elegant triumph, and the women's 100m, which is won by Deborah Enright-Ayo (Becton). Bowditch and weightlifting also figure heavily (S) (T) (8788223).

**6.00 The Air Show.** Fifty years of the Panborough International Airshow, a visit to the air-accident investigation branch and the completion of British Airways' latest 747 (S) (T) (807).

**6.30 Top Gear.** Which executive motor will Jeremy Clarkson prefer: the Ferrari 458R, the Aston Martin Vanquish, or the Bentley Amulet? (S) (T) (252).

**6.00 Third Rock from the Sun.** Dick takes a convict home to prove he theories on reformatory criminals (S) (T) (81038).

**6.25 Under the Sun What Sort of Gentlemen are You Aiming?** Another chance to see where Trevelyan's eye-opening film about Melbourne's most successful male prostitute, former furniture-maker Joel Ryan, who has more than 1200 female clients on the books. The film hears from the contractors and the increasingly uneasy wife (A) (S) (55359).

**10.15 Several Careful Owners.** The life and times of a 1937 Austin Chalcott limousine (A) (S) (807253).

**10.30 Newsmight.** With Gordon Brower (T) (700464).

**11.05 Late Review.** Ian McEwan's new novel, *American*, is up for consideration (S) (T) (007).

**12.00 Grace under Fire** (S) (7526), **12.30 BBC Learning Zone - Open University:** Virtual Democracy? (S) (505), **1.00 Forties Britain** (T) (8547), **1.30 Psychology in Action** (T) (6448), **2.00 The Graters:** Aristotle 5 (8215), **4.00 Teaching Film and Media - Young Film-makers:** The Electric Potted (8747), **5.00 Masterclasses with Michael Buerk** (5050), **5.00 Teacher Training - Computers Don't Lie:** Bulfinch 5 (767182), to 6.45pm.

**6.30 Videotech.** Margherita Taylor with the latest charts and "Gossip" from the pop world (S) (253).

**7.00 Emmerdale.** The village pays for Kathy (she's been run over by a car) (S) (T) (423).

**7.30 What Will They Think of Next? Tomorrow's World** in other words, with Carol Vorderman presenting from the Millennium Dome (S) (T) (765).

**6.00 Michael Barrymore's Strike It Rich.** New series of the lucky quiz show with its "hot spots" and its comparatively puny £10,000 jackpot (S) (T) (4223).

**6.30 Estate Agents.** More docu-soap visits with the British house-sellers. The agency's owner tries to aliminate stress with Zen workouts (T) (8578).

**6.00 CHURCH The Truth about... Soap.** From the kids who brought us *Hollywood Women*, *Hollywood Pops*, etc. See *Documentary of the Day*, below (T) (253).

**10.00 News Weather** (T) (57643).

**10.30 London Tonight** (T) (823464).

**10.40 Thursday Night Live.** Nicky Campbell and Andrew Neil try to start an argument in the heated, if not exactly loud, slug-fest-album show (S) (54579).

**11.40 The Big Match European Cup Winners Cup.** Highlights of Newcastle United vs Partizan Belgrade (T) (31858)

**12.30 Highlander** (878682), **1.20 Planet Earth** (886279), **1.50 Planet Earth Profiles** (890458), **2.40 Box Office America** (222332), **2.45 The Hunted Patrick** (853083), **3.40 Helloom** (2347083), **3.55 Beel of British Motor Sport** (855347), **4.05 Soundmix** (5559050), **4.30 TV Nightmares** (868285), to 5.30am.

**4.30 Humer Jungle** (A) (7748), **5.00 The Middle Ages** (887925), to 5.55am.

series day for the extended family - Thanksgiving (A) (T) (648).

**6.30 Hollyoaks.** Cheater adolescents (T) (23).

**7.00 Channel 4 News Weather.** Including headlines at 7.30pm (S) (T) (830468).

**7.30 Algeria Daily.** Algeria's independent journalists continue their struggle to cover the civil war (558038).

**6.00 Nigel Slater's Real Food Show.** Potatoes are the week's chosen ingredient, with Slater preparing fish-and-chip salad with salsa verde, and pan-fried potatoes with thyme and tangelo chutney (T) (8159).

**6.30 Wild Words.** Meet the American bull elk, famous for its eerie mating-call known as "bugling," which is now largely restricted to the Rocky Mountains (T) (820).

**6.00 FIVE French Kiss** (Lawrence Kasdan 1995 US). Not exactly what you might expect from a Lawrence Kasdan movie, the irreverent romantic comedy stars Meg Ryan (conforming to her dirty persona) as a woman whose fear of living has caused her to lose her Paris-bound boyfriend, Timothy Hutton. She picks up the courage to travel to France to win him back, falling in an role with Gallo level that Kevin Kline (in a role purportedly written for Gerard Depardieu). A Cannes version of all those Cary Grant-Hillock-Natalie turns is obviously at the back of Kasdan's mind (T) (8480349).

**11.05 Renegade TV.** Various experimental shorts, including Shkai's film on meditation, Gabe Dazey, and *The End*, written and directed by Kelly Burke (T) (7818253).

**12.05 Erotic Tales.** Bob Rabeaux's tee set in a bathroom showdown (255549).

**2.35 Brainappings.** Highlight from Ken Campbell (66760).

**3.35 Triumph of the Nerds** (A) (S) (T) (6503).

**4.30 Humer Jungle** (A) (7748), **5.00 The Middle Ages** (887925), to 5.55am.

probably via a sparkling ol' flowers. Quiz shows always have some (S) (40807).

**6.30 Family Affairs.** He Nock's 40th birthday (except shortbread for beer and tentacles), and Elsa tells Jack that the marriage is over (S) (T) (405358).

**7.00 5 News.** Including First on Five (S) (T) (5680920).

**7.15 CHURCH Live Football - European Cup Winners' Cup: Chelsea vs Hamburg.** Steve Scott presents live coverage from Stamford Bridge as reigning champions Chelsea take on the Swedish side in the first-round, first-leg match. The kick-off is at 7.45pm. See *Match of the Day*, below (S) (4803447).

**11.50 Hotline** (T) (259479), **12.25 Live and Dangerous** (S) (857470), **1.05 Live and Dangerous Continued** (S) (842828), **4.40 Prisoner:** Call Block H (427855), **5.30 100 Per Cent** (S) (400925), to 5am.

**10.00 FIVE First Blood** (Ted Kotcheff 1982 US). Raw, calculated but very compelling two-fisted action flicks with Sylvester Stallone introducing the word to the Vietnam veteran survivor, John Rambo. Our man is pushed too far by the attrition of a small Amazon town (Brian Dennehy). After being wrongfully arrested, the ex-Green Beret escapes to lead local law-enforcers and an army detachment a merry dance through the mountains. Richard Gere and NYPD Blue's David Caruso co-star (T) (391284).

**TELEVISION GUIDE BY CLARED GILBERT**

like a dead  
in a glass.